





# Iraqi Kurdish factions battle in northern Iraq

**SALAHUDDIN, Iraq (R)** — Rival Kurdish guerrilla factions battled for two towns in northern Iraq, forcing buffer forces to withdraw and bashing efforts to halt the 19-day-old conflict, officials from both sides said.

Units of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC), which has tried to separate the combatants, had to pull out of several strong points they had occupied around Khosr Sanjak and Shaqlawa under earlier peace pacts, INC officials said.

The latest battles between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), led by Jalal Talabani, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, have closed roads between the capital Irbil and the cities of Dahuk and Sulaimaniya.

The two Kurdish groups jointly rule an area of northern Iraq which has been protected from the government in Baghdad by Western air power since President Saddam Hussein crushed a Kurdish revolt by the end of the 1991 Gulf War. The INC is an anti-Saddam alliance to which both Kurdish groups belong.

A senior U.N. official said 15 to 20 foreign aid workers and U.N. guards were trapped inside Shaqlawa as KDP forces sought to dislodge their PUK foes from surrounding heights. The foreigners, contacted by radio, said they were safe for the moment because fighting had not spread to the town itself.

KDP Peshmerga guerrillas on the road a few kilometres from Shaqlawa were firing deafening rounds from a 106-mm recoilless rifle at PUK positions in the hills in the late afternoon.

They said PUK fighters were effectively surrounded in Shaqlawa, but were still resisting.

"We are not shooting at the town," one KDP man said. "We don't want to enter it or endanger civilians or shed any blood. We want a peaceful solution."

But there was no immediate let-up in the fighting. Small arms fire cracked in the distance, along with the heavier thud of anti-aircraft guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

Thursday's clashes began just hours after the end of a late-night meeting at INC headquarters in Salahuddin at which the feuding factions agreed to issue a new ceasefire call.

KDP leader Massoud Barzani accepted a request from the PUK to make a televised peace appeal Thursday, but he changed his mind after the new fighting erupted, KDP officials said.

Khoi Sanjak, on the Irbil-Sulaimaniya Road, and Shaqlawa, which links the western part of Iraqi Kurdistan to the KDP stronghold of Salahuddin and Irbil, are both in PUK hands.

Information on the overall casualty toll in the fratricidal conflict is sketchy. Estimates vary from 100 to 300.

The fighting has disrupted foreign relief efforts in northern Iraq and alarmed U.N. officials and the Western allies whose aircraft protect the region from the Baghdad government.

Armed conflict between supporters of your administration can be expected to negatively affect international support to the region," Stafford Clarry, head of the U.N. Iraq Relief and Rehabilitation Unit based in Irbil, wrote to the Iraqi Kurdish regional government in which the KDP and PUK share power.

He complained of abuses by both sides, including intimidation of local staff of foreign relief agencies.

The fighting began over a land dispute in the town of Qala Dizah, about 150 kilometres northwest of Sulaimaniya, and developed rapidly into a turf war which has redrawn the map of northern Iraq according to party affiliation.

The KDP controls all but a small pocket of the western governorate of Dahuk, while the PUK has the upper hand in Sulaimaniya governorate, though many parts are disputed.

The two sides have so far successfully sought to prevent fighting in the capital Irbil, but PUK fighters have taken control of the parliament and other government buildings there.

Fighting has also flared again between the PUK and the Islamic Movement of Kurdistan, especially around the town of Halabja on the Iranian border, in the last few days.

The PUK which launched a big assault on the Muslim militia in December, says Iranian Revolutionary Guards are fighting alongside the Islamic forces, the KDP denies this claim.

Mr. Clarry told Reuters that recent fighting near the Iranian border had caused panic among civilians who had been settled near Sadiq after losing their homes in the Iraqi-held city of Kirkuk during the failed Kurdish uprising of 1991.

He said about 1,000 families were reported to have left the Shamandary Camp and were heading towards Sulaimaniya. "People are pitching tents near Arbat just outside the city," he said.



JOINT PATROLS: Palestinian policemen (left) counterpart during a break of the joint patrol in Jericho Friday (AFP photo)

## Egyptian ferry blazes, sinks in Red Sea

**CAIRO (R)** — Hundreds of holiday travellers dived into the Red Sea during the night as fire gutted a ferry carrying them from Saudi Arabia to Egypt.

At least eight of the nearly 600 people aboard the Egyptian ferry Qamar Al Saudi died. Officials said up to 21 people might still be missing.

The ferry was bringing hundreds of Egyptians home for the Muslim festival of Eid Al Adha which starts Saturday and marks the climax of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

It had dropped 500 passengers at the Egyptian port of Safage and was carrying 510 passengers and 83 crew north towards Suez when one of its boilers exploded Wednesday night.

The burned-out ferry floated nearly submerged until Thursday afternoon, when it finally sank.

A woman saved from the blaze gave birth to a baby girl on one of the rescue ships. Officials said numbers of people rescued or missing were confused because many vessels were taking part in rescue operations and survivors were taken to different ports.

A security official from Egypt's Red Sea governorate said all but 15 of the passengers and crew were accounted for. Egyptian naval sources said 555 people had been rescued and up to 21 people might still be missing.

United States Navy forces assisting the rescue said 476 people had been saved and

others were still being plucked during the afternoon from the sea and from an oil platform in the area 30 miles north of Safage.

Some survivors were being taken to the Red Sea resort of Hurghada. Others were picked up by three tugs working in the oilfields of the Gulf of Suez and were taken to shore at the oil loading port in Gabal Zeit.

Major-General Salah Mokhtar, director of the Suez and Red Sea ports, said 10 rescue units were taking part.

Minister of Transport Soliman Metwally flew to the area. In December 1991, 476 people died when a ferry packed with Egyptian pilgrims returning from Saudi Arabia hit a reef and sank near Safage.

## Yemen foes take a daily break for qat

**SANAA (R)** — When midday comes to Yemen's civil war battlefields, soldiers on both sides put down their guns till sunset.

The long, hot afternoon belongs to the ritual of qat — a bitter narcotic leaf which requires hours of chewing to produce its mild stimulant effect.

"The battle was going on in the morning but it died down by noon. You just missed it," a Northern soldier told this reporter on a frontline visit.

"It's lunchtime, and after that, qat. Both sides respect these needs," explained an army officer.

"Fighting will probably resume late in the afternoon and you can watch it if you're still

around," another soldier said.

Civil war erupted on May 4 out of a quarrel between President Ali Abdullah Salem, a northerner, and Vice President Ali Salem al Beidh, a southerner. They are the same leaders who merged North and South Yemen into a single state in 1990.

Journalists touring battlefronts have found hardly any fighting during qat time.

Soldiers sit in the shade of a wall, a tank or under trees with plastic bags full of the green herb in front of them.

Officers chew qat in their offices as they explain developments in the battles to visiting journalists.

Southern prisoners of war commonly receive a ration of

qat from their northern captors.

At the camp of the Northern Amal Brigade, the captured commander of a southern brigade was sitting on a cushion on the floor of a room next to the Amal Brigade commander's office, chewing qat.

The Amal Brigade, in the southern city of Zinjibar, has been trying to advance to Beidh's capital Aden 50 kilometres (34 miles) to the southwest since the war began, but has met determined resistance.

In the police station at Al Rafida on the road between Aden and the northern city of Taiz, 53 southern prisoners were pooling their funds and asking their northern guards to buy qat for them.

## Turkey unveils democratisation plan

**ANKARA (R)** — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has proposed a series of democratisation measures that will open the political arena to groups barred from politics by Turkey's former military rulers.

The programme includes revisions to 10 articles of the constitution, a restrictive charter passed in 1982 when Turkey was ruled by a military junta that seized power in 1980.

In a big move towards a fully pluralist democracy, the measures will lift all restrictions that bar academics, students, labour unions and associations from political activity.

But a human rights campaigner and a political columnist noted that the package did little to improve human rights in Turkey.

"If there is nothing about repealing laws that restrict human rights... that democratisation will be worthless," said Mahmut Ongoren, head of the Human Rights Foundation of

Turkey.

A score of other improvements are to be made either by amending existing laws or by new legislation, all requiring action by the 450-member parliament.

Other measures will lower the voting age from 21 to 18 and allow members of parliament to switch parties at will.

"The democratisation package aims at putting Turkey on the track for restructuring in administrative, social and political areas," Ms. Ciller told a news conference.

The programme was assembled over the past few months by her conservative True Path Party (DYP) and its junior coalition partner, the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP is believed to have given its support to Ms. Ciller's austerity programme in return for the democratisation moves.

The coalition, which holds 233 seats in the parliament, needs two-thirds of the votes to change the constitution but it

can pass other legislation with a simple majority.

Ms. Ciller indicated she would improve ethnic and cultural rights for Kurds in southeast Turkey, where troops have been battling against separatist Kurdish guerrillas since 1984. But she said Turkey's national unity would not be prejudiced.

"All legal obstacles and restrictions which citizens meet in the free expression and development of their ethnic, cultural and linguistic identity characteristics will be handled within national unity," she said.

Mehmed Ali Birand, a political columnist, reacting to the package, told Reuters: "It is absolutely crucial for Ciller to get this package accepted in order to keep the Social Democrats as her partner," he said.

"But I think she will succeed... It is already such a small package and offers only timid improvements on human rights."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Blast hits Christian school in Sidon

**SIDON, Lebanon (AFP)** — A powerful explosion badly damaged a Christian school in the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon early Friday, without causing any casualties, officials said. Police said the blast was caused by a bomb, but a government prosecutor who visited the scene, Khaled Hamud, said no trace of explosives had been found and it was probably caused by a gas leak. The investigation was continuing, he said. The explosion wrecked the dining room and blew out windows at the Evangelical Protestant School, formerly known as the American School. It happened at 5 a.m. (0200 GMT) and was heard over a wide distance. Headmaster Jamal Yazigi ordered the school's temporary closure and police sealed off the area. Mr. Yazigi said there had been no warning and he was unaware of why the school, which has 3,300 pupils, would be the target of a bomb attack. A blast in a Christian church north of Beirut on Feb. killed 10 people and left 54 hurt. Sidon, hometown of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri, is mainly Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim, but has a small Christian community.

### Lebanese shell pro-Israeli militia

**MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (R)** — Lebanese guerrillas shelled five fortified posts of Israel's militia allies in its South Lebanon occupation zone at dawn Friday, militia sources said. They said mortar bombs exploded around positions of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) at Reshaf, Jebel Humayyed, Barasahit, Shkief Anamel and Beit Yahoun but caused no damage or injuries. Security sources said a civilian was injured in Barasahit village when SLA gunners retaliated by shelling the village and other centres north of the occupation zone.

### Rabin tops popularity poll

**TEL AVIV (AFP)** — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is Israel's most popular political leader, according to an opinion poll published Friday. The Premier and Labour Party leader won 36 per cent support in the survey carried out for the Yediot Aharanot newspaper. Israelis were asked to say who they thought was "the best person to lead the government at this time." Benjamin Netanyahu, opposition Likud Party leader, gained 19 per cent and former defence minister and right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon 12 per cent. Far-right Tsomet Party chief Rafael Eitan had 11 per cent backing, one percentage point ahead of Labour Party rebel and ex-Health Minister Chaim Ramon. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres trailed in with seven per cent. The poll also found that Mr. Rabin would win 50 per cent support over 38 per cent for Netanyahu if snap elections were held. Six per cent of the 503 people questioned by the Dahat Institute Tuesday and Wednesday voiced no opinion.

### Rocket hits Kabul market, kills 16

**KABUL (R)** — At least 16 people were killed when a rocket hit a market in western Kabul Thursday, an army official said. People were buying food when the rocket struck the market in an area controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said the official from the Kabul garrison which is loyal to the prime minister's arch-foe, President Burhanuddin Rabbani. It was not immediately clear who fired the rocket. But the garrison official said it was not the work of pro-Rabbani forces and could have been fired by opposition forces themselves. No comment was immediately available from Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-I-Islami Party which, together with northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, seeks to topple Rabbani. Witnesses said both sides were firing rockets and artillery at each other's positions in the capital, where more than 2,500 people have been killed since renewed hostilities broke out on New Year's Day. Doctors said a seven-year-old boy was killed and several people were wounded in other parts of the city Thursday.

### Iran seizes 15 tonnes of drugs

**TEHRAN (AFP)** — Iranian authorities seized 15 tonnes of drugs from mid-March till early May, arresting 1,419 traffickers, police chief Reza Seifollah said. Mr. Seifollah said 2,000 drug addicts had also been arrested between March 20 and May 6 and put through rehabilitation programmes. Iran is a transit route for drugs coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan destined for Europe and North America via Turkey. Last year the authorities seized about 95 tonnes of drugs — mainly heroin, morphine and opium — and arrested 15,000 drug traffickers and 45,000 drug addicts, according to official figures.

### Dissident's wife: Libya offered bribe

**PARIS (R)** — The wife of a prominent Libyan dissident who disappeared in Cairo last December has said a senior Libyan official offered her money to tone down her campaign against leader Muammar Qadhafi, the New York Times Service reported Friday. Former Foreign Minister Mansour Kikhaia quit his government post in 1981 and became a critic of Col. Qadhafi and a leading opposition figure abroad. He disappeared mysteriously in Cairo on Dec. 11. Libyan opposition leaders and Mr. Kikhaia's wife, Baha Al Omari, have said they feared he was abducted by Libyan government agents. Libya has denied that Mr. Kikhaia, 61, is on its territory. A New York Times Service report published in the Paris-based International Herald-Tribune said Ms. Omari, who lives in France, indicated that a Libyan official told her Tripoli was prepared to assume all expenses for her four children and herself. She said she interpreted the offer as being conditional on her softening or ending her campaign on behalf of her husband. The report said the offer followed two conciliatory letters from Col. Qadhafi in which he referred to Mr. Kikhaia as a "patriot" whose disappearance was a major concern of the Libyan government.

## Kuwait is set for new era in inter-Arab relations

By Inal Eisan  
Reuters

**KUWAIT** — Kuwait looks set to mend relations with some of the Arab states which sympathised with Iraq during its 1990-91 occupation of the emirate.

"Kuwait well knows that it is better for it to have these countries on its side rather than let them support Iraq's attempts to lift U.N. sanctions," said an Arab diplomat. "It is a matter of logic and interests, not of sentiment," he added. "In today's world not many can afford to say 'X country is my enemy'. One can only say 'there is a conflict of interest with X'," he added.

Iraq's seven-month occupation of its oil-rich neighbour caused deep division between Arab states which supported or sympathised with Baghdad and those who opposed it.

The emirate's ties with Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mauritania, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Tunisia have been chilly ever since due to their sympathy with Iraq.

Moves to reconcile Kuwait with some of its former Arab friends have coincided with an Iraqi diplomatic campaign aimed at gaining international support for an end to U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Many Kuwaitis still find normalisation with Iraq's friends

difficult to swallow. But many commentators say that that should not be a reason to stop making efforts at reconciliation.

"There is a bitter taste in the mouth. Jordan and the Palestinians should go out and say frankly 'we have erred'," said Saif Abbas Abdullah, who chairs Kuwait University's Political Science Department. But he added: "Through dialogue with my students I realised a difference as the time passed... Time and debate succeeded in bringing points of view closer."

### NEWS ANALYSIS

Kuwait has long prided itself on strong friendships with many Arab, African and Asian states and has provided generous amounts of aid to help many Third World economies develop.

Kuwaitis were consequently furious during the occupation when they learnt that some Arab states which had received copious amounts of their largesse had sided with their enemy.

Reconciliation was once seen as a remote possibility upon its introduction for debate in parliament and through opinion polls and newspaper commentaries.

A visit by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia last year raised hopes of protest in newspapers and letter columns.

But veteran Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah last month toured three Maghreb states which failed to show support for Kuwait during the Gulf crisis.

He described his talks with Tunisian, Mauritanian and Algerian officials as "constructive." His tour also included a visit to Morocco, with which Kuwait has good relations.

"Kuwait is keen on restoring Arab solidarity according to the rules and bases that ensure deepening mutual trust among Arab countries," said minister of state for cabinet affairs, Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil, after Sheikh Sabah briefed the cabinet on the results of his tour.

Some members of parliament say it is time to mend fences.

"As a member of the Islamic stream in parliament, I say we support restoring ties with the sisterly countries if they would recognise the Security Council's resolutions related to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," said Muslim fundamentalist parliamentarian Mubarak Al Dulailah.

In 1993 the government expressed willingness to improve ties with some states if they responded to a list of Kuwaiti terms.

The list stipulates that Kuwait's friends should condemn Iraq's invasion and help free some 600 Kuwaitis believed still held captive in Iraq despite its denials.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Le Monde Sous Marin
18:30	Dossier De La Semaine
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
21:00	Varities
21:30	The Campbells
22:00	News in English
22:28	
Feature Film: "For Their Own Good"	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:00	Fajr
05:30	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:32	Dhuhr
16:13	'Asr
19:33	Maghreb
21:03	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swiffield, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
In St. Saba Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772551	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Loyal Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be hot and dusty with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot with winds northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	20 / 33
Aqaba	22 / 28
Deserts	16 / 26
Jordan Valley	22 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Nidal As'ad	751672
Dr. Issam Asmar	890504
Dr. Sa'id Al	782285
Dr. Riaz Abu Zaid	894295
First pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asmaa pharmacy	637055
Nairookh pharmacy	623672
Al Solan pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Police	843402
Traffic Police	896590
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	773111
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	661001
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hassia	983000
Khalilpharmacy	983417
HOSPITALS	
Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport	08-53200
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:30	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)
07:45	New Delhi (RJ)
08:25	Aqaba (RJ)
08:30	Dhaka (RJ)
08:35	Dhaka (RJ)
08:45	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00	Beirut (RJ)
11:00	Colombo (RJ)
16:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:55	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
04:20	Vicenza (OA)
15:45	Rome (AZ)
19:45	Dubai (EM)
20:30	Paris, Damascus (AF)
22:25	Amsterdam (KL)
06:35	Cairo (MS)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:40	Beirut (RJ)
08:00	Aqaba (RJ)
12:00	Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:35	Paris, Brussels (AF)
12:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)







## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.  
 جردان تايمز جريدة عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:  
**MARMOUD AL KAYED**

Director General:  
**MOHAMMAD AMAD**

Editor-in-Chief:  
**GEORGE S. HAWATMEH**

Editorial and advertising offices:  
 Jordan Press Foundation,  
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.  
 Telephones: 6671716, 670141-4  
 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO  
 Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.  
 Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

### Holiday, with room for thought

IT IS once again the holiday season when thousands of Jordanians travel abroad or visit national touristic sites to celebrate and enjoy Eid Al Adha. Travel agents report that practically all outgoing flights are fully booked with some of them even overbooked by 60 per cent. This mass travel has, of course, pluses and minuses attached to it.

On the positive side, travel to foreign lands gives Jordanians opportunities to see and experience foreign cultures, and as such it is an educating process. Besides, our national carrier, Royal Jordanian, and the transport sector generally, benefit from the extra business, bringing into the country added revenues, both direct and indirect. On top of that, airport and border departure fees help reduce our budget deficit.

On the negative side, travelling abroad deprives local touristic facilities of additional incomes and profits. In this vein, Aqaba stands out as the most competitive touristic area in the country where Jordanians could have been spending their holidays instead of flying out of the country. Yet a closer look at Aqaba and its touristic and hotel facilities would reveal that they are to blame for lost businesses.

To begin with, the cost price in Aqaba is not competitive when all things are considered. Jordanians have long discovered that it could be cheaper to fly to far away places and stay at five star hotels at prices that are equal or even cheaper than what is being offered at Aqaba beach hotels. The problem here is that Aqaba hotels try to make their money in a few months of the year when the weather conditions are most favourable instead of developing a touristic policy that would allow them to make business all year around.

Part of the problem is also the limited coastline in Aqaba, measuring no more than one kilometre. When thousands of Jordanians flock south to swim and enjoy the sun, the beaches become overcrowded. It is unfortunate that till this time all the southern beach area is still undeveloped in spite of the fact that we all have been saying for decades that Aqaba is our prime touristic area.

At a time when beaches on the Egyptian side of the Sinai Peninsula are thriving and Israel is busy developing a fully integrated touristic area in Eilat and its environs, Aqaba cannot afford to lose its touristic potential. Private investors can develop that potential, but only after our authorities make up their mind on what exactly they want Aqaba to be: A real touristic attraction or just a seaport, or both. If the latter is the final choice, as indeed it has been, well, the government should at least delineate where new beaches for development can begin and end.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Amman reconciliation agreement between the northern and southern leaders of Yemen has been scrapped and buried beneath the rubble of the ongoing conflict, Jordan has to adopt a very clear position with regard to the war in that Arab country, said Fahed Al Fanek, a columnist in Al Ra'i. It is true that the Kingdom, which brought together the leaders of both sides and concluded the peace that was designed to last, has played a neutral part in the conflict so far, but Amman must now come out in the open and declare that it recognised only one united Yemen, with its capital Sanaa, said the writer. We are for legitimacy and democracy and we should admit that Yemen has a single army while those in the south are trying to separate Aden from the motherland, said Fanek. The writer said that the Yemeni unity was achieved not through force but through dialogue and mutual agreement and that the separatists are trying to end the unity with the use of weapons. That, he said, must be stopped by all means. In his view, those Arabs trying to bring about reconciliation at this juncture are attempting to consecrate the split between Sanaa and Aden and are trying to ensure that the two Yemens remain separated. The writer said that Jordan should openly support Sanaa in its drive to perpetuate unity and its drive towards democracy.

SELDOM A day passes by without a report in the local press about authorities seizing quantities of food found unfit for human consumption, said Samir Naifeh, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily. It is not enough for the concerned authorities to fine the violators of public health regulations, a wide-scale search campaign for bad food and its traders is required on regular basis so as to stem the tendency among the traders towards manipulations and cheating the public as well, said the writer. The Health Ministry is called on to strike with an iron fist at those merchants, bakeries or restaurants who persist in their cheating and in manipulations, and to ensure that they are denied a licence for the business they have been abusing, demanded the writer.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Arms embargo on Bosnia should end soon

By Dr. Musa Keilani

FOR THE first time since the eruption of war in former Yugoslavia two years ago, concrete moves are being taken to mobilise international public opinion and parliamentary support for an end to the arms embargo imposed against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The realisation that the embargo is denying the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina their legitimate right to self-defence against a war of genocide waged by expansionist Bosnian Serbs was on the centre-stage at a meeting held in Brussels in late April.

The International Conference of Parliamentarians (ICP) Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina, sponsored by the speaker of the European Parliament, brought together more than 200 parliament members, political party leaders and media personnel from 40 countries to discuss the injustice that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected to.

Particularly brought into focus during the conference was the unjust arms embargo against the victims of aggression by the Bosnian Serbs, to whom the ban against military supplies to former Yugoslavia does not matter much since they have allies in the region to keep their arsenal replenished.

The key resolution adopted by the conference was a pledge to exert effort on all levels to lift the embargo so that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could defend themselves against the Bosnian Serb assault, which is supported by advocates of a greater Serbia and their allies.

The conference was indeed aware that lifting the embargo in itself was of not much help to the people, and thus the idea was incorporated that once the embargo is no longer in place, then friends of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina could extend military aid to help them fight an enemy far stronger in terms of weapons and manoeuvrability.

There is no doubt that certain European powers with vested

interests are extending support, moral and material, to the Bosnian Serbs to pursue their campaign of "ethnic cleansing" and expanding occupation to achieve the objective of a greater Serbia in the Balkans.

Representatives from the conference, his writer included, paid a visit to Rome seeking the weight of the Vatican, where they met with the de facto foreign minister of the Holy See and presented the case. The Holy See was indeed highly understanding of the cause of the International Conference of Parliamentarians Against the Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The practical translations of that understanding and appreciation will, hopefully, manifest soon.

A field visit to the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, was all that was needed to drive home the point among many conferees that unless something was done quickly and immediately the cause of Bosnians would be lost for ever.

Being a Muslim, I could not but come away convinced that by either ignoring the plight of the Bosnian Muslims or being apathetic to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Islamic countries have committed a grave mistake. History will not forgive them for not allowing an advance Muslim people, who have reached a level of an equilibrium between religious belief and the needs of the modern age, to bloom by helping them in their hour of need and preventing their elimination.

It is not late today. It was heartening for the Brussels conferees to note that a draft legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Congress that would effectively force the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina. American lawmakers deserve high praise for the gesture, which will hopefully be picked and followed up by the Clinton administration.

But it is disturbing to take note of a intensification of a campaign by lobbyists to influence the U.S. Congress against

adopting the draft law. No doubt, those behind the campaign are trying to convince the lawmakers that a process of peace is under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina and it would be defeating the purpose to lift the arms embargo at this point in time.

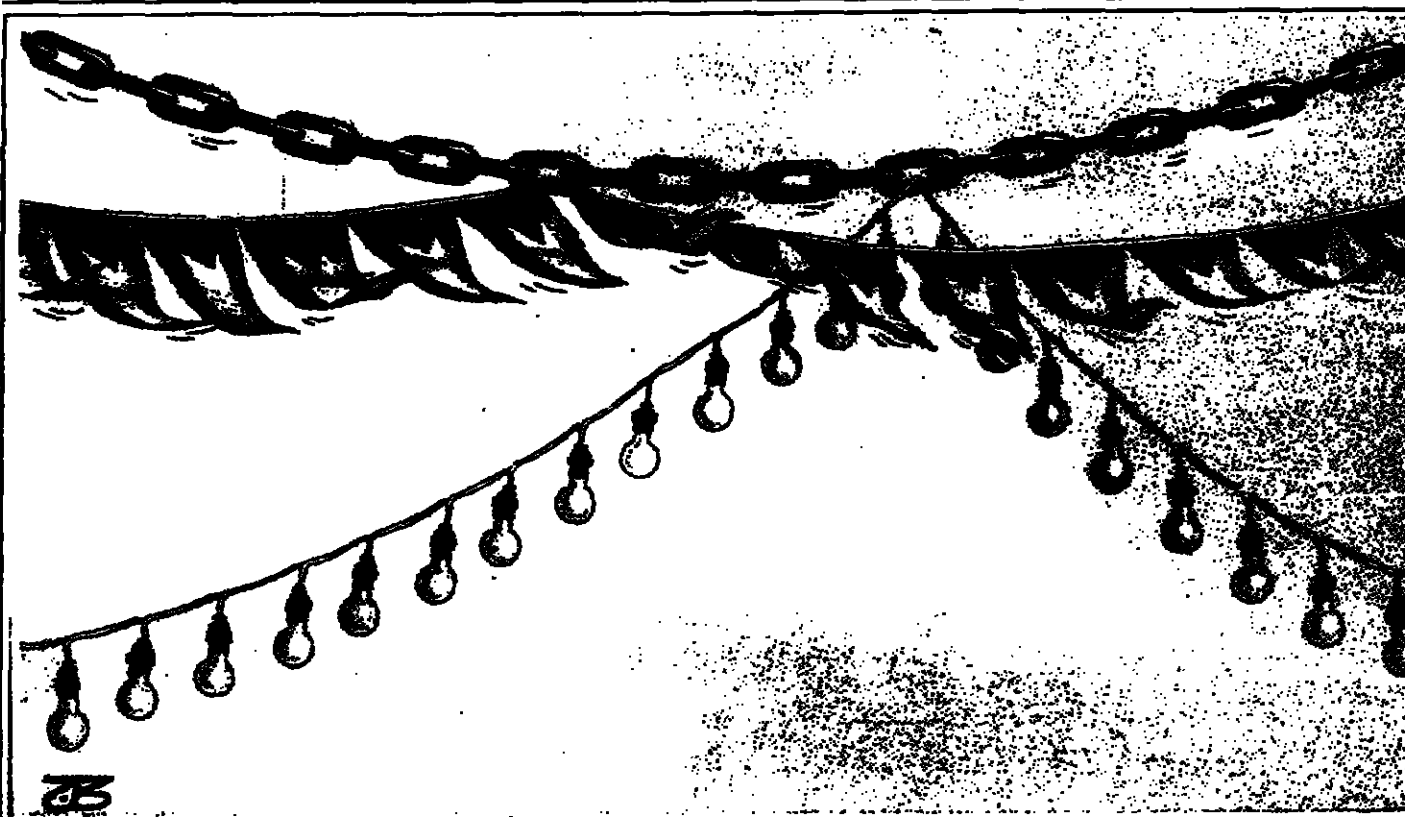
No one would be more mistaken if anyone believes that argument. We have had more than enough experience with Serb procrastination and brinkmanship to realise that Serb gestures of accepting peace plans and proposals are only stalling tactics aimed at preempting forceful international action to dissuade them from continuing their deadly game in the Balkans.

The conference of parliamentarians and all those who would like to see an end to the injustices committed against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were fortunate to have a dedicated Jordanian, Kamel Al Sharif, as chairman of the Brussels conference.

Since returning from the gathering, the conference chairman has sent appeals to all heads of governments, informing them of what had transpired in Brussels and urging them to appreciate the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and adopt action by their own governments to extend help.

Simultaneously, all participants in the Brussels conference have also been urged to adopt follow-up action in their respective countries to lobby their governments and raise public awareness of the realities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and realisation of who is the victim and who is the aggressor there.

Particular focus has also been given to the draft legislation in the U.S. Congress. Personal appeals have gone out to President Bill Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore and leaders in the American legislative authority. Hopefully, the spirit in which the world's peace loving people call for a fair and just approach to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina will be heard and understood in the same wavelength it was sent.



### Uncertain future for Palestinians in Lebanon

By Rosemary Sayigh

THE PROPOSAL by the Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, to "redistribute" Palestinians living in Lebanon (Al Safir, April 18 and MEI 474) has deepened concern about their future. Evoking Lebanon's "delicate composition", Mr. Buwayz proposes that 20 per cent of Lebanon's Palestinians should go to Gaza or Jericho; another 25 per cent should join kin wherever they may be; the rest should be given priority by any country with space for immigrants. Under no circumstances will Lebanon agree to give Palestinians citizenship, Mr. Buwayz underlined Lebanese unanimity on this point.

The exact number of Palestinians who live in Lebanon, or have residence rights there, is unknown. A recent UNRWA figure of registered refugees is 351,000, but this figure is problematic because it includes a certain number of Lebanese, and does not include all Palestinians. Excluded are all refugees who arrived after the closure of the registration lists in the early 1950s, most of whom came after Israel occupied the West Bank in 1967. Of registered refugees, less than half live in camps. But the rest do not necessarily enjoy a higher standard of living: the majority live in rural or suburban settlements hardly distinguishable from camps.

Mr. Buwayz's proposals come soon after a visit by UNRWA's commissioner-general to Beirut during which he met both the president and the prime minister. In itself a sign of crisis, the main subject of discussion was likely to have been recent government moves discouraging reconstruction of the camps. This followed a meeting on Feb. 21 between Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and a Palestinian delegation. High on the Palestinian agenda was the fate of the war-displaced (muhajjarin) under notice to quit illegal accommodation by June.

#### Displaced refugees

An UNRWA survey carried out in 1990-91 identified approximately 6,000 displaced refugee families; 3,000 in the Sidon area, 1,675 in Beirut, and 474,464 and 341

in the north, Beqaa and Tyre respectively. The majority either have no rights to camp or come from camps that have been destroyed. UNRWA says it has located more than 2,000 sites in existing camps that could be used for rebuilding.

Up to January this year, work to restore damaged camp housing and infrastructure was well under way. Water pipes, sewage, roads and electricity grids were being repaired. Evicted families from the Beirut-Sidon coastal area had been rehoused in Burj Al Shimali. In Beirut, 60 displaced families in hotels in Rawshieh were rehoused in multistorey buildings on the edge of Shatila. Such building is an improvement on older camp housing for having kitchens and washrooms; it also makes more economical use of camp space. But in January, after a meeting between the prime minister and UNRWA's Lebanon field director, plans for further housing of this sort were shelved.

Mr. Hariri's response to the Palestinian delegation added a new negation to Lebanese policy towards the camps. This policy to date may be summarised by three nos: no to the rebuilding of four camps destroyed by war; no to the expansion of existing camps; no to the establishment of new camps. Until December 1993 however, repairs in existing camps were under way, expedited by the end of fighting and plans for the return of all muhajjarin, Lebanese and Palestinians, to their homes. Now, even these few remaining "safe areas" appear threatened.

Mr. Hariri told the delegation that camps in the Beirut area would soon have to go as part of plans for "beautification" of the city. The prime minister also evoked past sectarian battles by saying that camps with hostile (i.e. Maronite or Shiite) neighbours should not be rebuilt. These warnings affect five out of the 11 remaining camps. A project to rebuild the Haifa-Tripoli railway line may affect four other camps.

Beirut's Sports City (ruined during the Israeli invasion of 1982) is said to be scheduled for expansion in the hope of hosting the 1996 Asian Games. The Saudis have already earmarked

\$20m for this project which is likely to engulf Shatila. Up to now public electricity has not been restored to this camp even though subscriptions have been paid.

Where can the many Palestinians who need low-cost housing and UNRWA services live?

Mr. Hariri insisted that by June all war-displaced in Beirut and Sidon (more than 4,500 families) must leave squatter homes or face eviction. He advised that international money should be sought to give every Palestinian family \$25,000 with which to buy or rent accommodation outside the camps.

#### Pressure to emigrate

Mr. Hariri said also to have reiterated the official Lebanese position that there can be no question of giving Palestinians civic rights (the most crucial being the right to employment) before a general Middle East settlement. Yet though the question of their status is said to be "frozen", on the ground changes are taking place that suggest the official policy, however uncoordinated, is to multiply pressures on Palestinians to emigrate.

Palestinians are divided as to how much importance should be attached to the prime minister's words. Some point out that he expressed his own views, not official policy. Opposition has been voiced by important figures such as Walid Jumblatt (minister for the war-displaced), and Nabih Berri (speaker of parliament). Mr. Hariri's popularity is declining, the optimists say, while movements that support the Palestinians (mainly Islamist) are on the rise. A decision to demolish the camps would have to pass through parliament. Rupture of longstanding arrangements would certainly arouse protest from the U.N. The unpredictability of Lebanese politics leaves room for hope and, better, for action.

Pessimists assert that in Lebanon today Mr. Hariri is the government, no other voices count. His "money is right" style could bulldoze through the legal niceties of camp site leases, U.N. objections and Palestinian resistance. They say, too, that Palestinians no longer enjoy

the support of any mainstream political party or community. The traditionally pro-Palestinian "national progressive" bloc has been angered by the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and is unlikely actively to oppose state moves against the camps as long as these are carried out without overt violence. Syria has both political and economic motives not to intervene to prevent such moves, while Palestinians here see as part of an international and regional plan to break up old Palestinian settlements and disperse their residents into a yet wider diaspora.

Moreover, the government has been moving skillfully to avoid confrontation, dealing with small groups of squatters at a time, moving out Lebanese as well as Palestinian muhajjarin (though paying the Lebanese higher compensation), and capitalising on Lebanese resentment of continuing military operations from the south. Further, there are contradictions that weaken pro-Palestinian voices: those who have supported the Palestinian national struggle have not campaigned for their civic rights. And those who support their claim to civic rights have not worked out ways these could be implemented without surrendering national identity and repatriation rights.

Palestinian leaders say that the people will resist demolition of the camps, just as they have resisted other attacks in the past. Meanwhile, they are mobilising support in parliament and elsewhere, among a broad spectrum of political figures.

But whether or not official policy increases Palestinian emigration, there is no doubt about its effects on those who depend economically and socially on camp space. As PFLP leader Salah Salah said in an interview: "All the problems that a poor population suffers from — sickness, drugs, family quarrels — can only be exacerbated." Given the already low level of welfare, this is a sobering thought.

Rosemary Sayigh, who lives in Beirut, is the author of *Too Many Enemies: the Palestinian experience in Lebanon*. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

### THE WEEK IN PRINT

#### Yemeni war a reflection of Arab weakness

Reviewed by Eisa Nasrallah

THE WAR in Yemen continued to attract attention in the local press in the past week but solid prospects for peace in the Middle East, the autonomy rule in Jericho and Gaza as well as domestic affairs.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the northern and the southern leaders of Yemen are intent on carrying on the fighting, thus opening the door wide for foreign intervention, especially as the Arab League has failed to stop the war.

The paper said that this war continues to kill innocent people and devastate vital economic and social institutions in the poverty-stricken country.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh should not become prisoner of his own decisions, nor should Ali Salem Al Beidh, head of the Aden-based Socialist Party, rest assured that his air force would have the upper hand. They, both should realise that they are sowing the seeds of hatred among their own people and destroying their country's economic institutions, said Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour. The writer said that the leaders of the north and the south Yemen should opt for dialogue and should realise that there can be no victor in civil war.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i said what was required by the Arab World is to find a way to end the fighting in Yemen, rather than endorsing the civil war that has cost the country its unity. Oman and Jordan were alone in getting the northern and southern leaders together and ending the differences but unfortunately their efforts failed to acquire other parties' support, said the writer. In fact, some Arabs opted for fuelling the strife and encouraging the bloodshed and some have encouraged one side against the other because they hated to see Yemen united and following the path of democracy, added Mr. Rimawi.

In the view of the Al Dustour daily, the war in Yemen represents the true image of the weak Arab order. This Arab order does not have the required mechanism to stop the fighting and the continued inter-Arab differences have rendered the Arab League without any credibility, said the paper. Indeed the continued war in Yemen cannot be stopped by wishful thinking or

mere appeals for an end to bloodshed but through practical steps on the part of a collective effort by the Arab Nation, said the daily.

Referring to the start of autonomy rule in Gaza and Jericho, a columnist in Al Dustour said that the autonomy rule was celebrated by the Palestinians who do not consider its beginning as the end of the road. Indeed the start of autonomy and self-rule after 27 years under occupation means a lot for the oppressed people who realise that this serves as a start of a new struggle for a complete freedom for all areas still under Israeli rule, said Mohammad Kawash. In the writer's view, the autonomy rule shakes the foundation of a Zionist dogma that only a Jewish society will enjoy living in the promised land of Palestine as the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho marks the beginning of the end of occupation.

Taher Al Udwan, another Al Dustour columnist, said that the shuttle diplomacy conducted by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was not likely to achieve a good result since nothing on the ground has changed and no signs have appeared that Israel could be sincere and would embark on genuine peace. The writer said that Syria wants all of its occupied land liberated before peace can be achieved while Israel wants to follow the path of secret contacts with Damascus and achieve a separate treaty. Also despite Damascus's continued calls on Washington to play the role of active partner, the Americans are not committing themselves to any move that would not please their Israeli allies, said the writer.

Saleh Al Qallab said that the Palestinian people have all the right to rejoice at the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the areas of Jericho and Gaza following 27 years of occupation. The columnist who writes for Al Dustour said that Palestinians have all reason to be jubilant at the start of their freedom while they continue the struggle for the end of occupation in Palestine. The pain over the fratricidal war in Yemen, he said, should not stop the Palestinians and the other Arabs from expressing their joy over the start of freedom for Palestine.

### LETTERS

#### A 'serious oversight'

To the Editor:

THE JORDAN TIMES' first page special report of the seminar entitled "Jerusalem - The key to genuine peace in the Middle East," by Sa'eda Kilani (May 8), though commendable suffered from a minor but serious oversight.

Unlike the Jordan Times we know, the report failed to mention the seminar sponsor, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee — Middle East Regional Office — Amman. Hordes of motivated contributing volunteer activists felt deprived of a deserved tribute, when their organisation's sponsorship role was nowhere to be found in that report — undoubtedly an oversight. Recognition, and giving credit where credit is due, is conventional productive encouragement.

Farid Hussein,  
 ADC Volunteers,  
 Amman.

Handwritten signature in Arabic script.



## Features

SOON

loubt, those behind the...  
speakers that a process...  
govina and it would be...  
embargo at this point...  
mistaken if anyone be...  
more than enough exp...  
shipmanship to reali...  
e plans and proposa...  
recomping forced...  
a continuing their dea...

entarians and all those...  
injustices committed...  
vina were fortunate...  
Al Sharif, as chairm...

gathering, the confere...  
heads of government...  
d in Brussels and...  
the people of Bosnia...  
own governments to...  
participants in the B...  
adopt follow-up acti...  
by their governments...  
in Bosnia-Herzegov...  
in and who is the ag...  
given to the draft...  
appeals have gone...  
President Albert...  
legislative authority...  
peace loving people...  
nation in Bosnia-Herz...  
the same wavelength...

K IN PRIN

ir a reflecti...  
weakness

by Elia Nasrallah

mere appeals for...  
bloodshed but throu...  
steps on the part...  
tive effort by the...  
said the daily.

Referring to the...  
autonomy rule in...  
Jericho, a columnis...  
tour said that the...  
rule was celebrat...  
Palestinians who...  
sider its beginning...  
the road. Indeed...  
autonomy and self...  
years under occup...  
a lot for the oppre...  
who realise that...  
start of a new era...  
complete freedom...  
still under Israeli...  
Mohammad Kawal...  
writer's view, the...  
rule shakes the foun...  
Zionist dogma that...  
ish society will en...  
the promised land...  
the withdrawal o...  
forces from Gaza...  
marks the beginni...

Taher Al Udwai...  
Al Dastour colum...  
that the shuttle...  
ducted by U.S. S...  
State Warren Chris...  
not likely to achie...  
result since no...  
ground has chang...  
signs have appear...  
could be sincere...  
embark on genuine...  
writer said that...  
of its occupied land...  
before peace can...  
while Israel wants...  
path of secret...  
Damascus and...  
rate treaty. Al...  
Damascus's comm...  
Washington to pla...  
active partner, the...  
are not committing...  
to any move that...  
please their Israeli...

Sarah Al Qallab...  
Palestinian people...  
right to reject...  
drawal of Israeli...  
the areas of Jeric...  
following "year...  
The columnis...  
for Al Dastour...  
Palestinians have...  
be jubilant at the...  
freedom while the...  
the struggle for...  
occupation in Pal...  
pain over the fra...  
he said, the...  
Yemen, the Palestin...  
other Arabs from...  
their joy over the...  
don for Palestin...

TERS

is oversight

first page special rep...  
- The key to genuine...  
ani (May 2), though...  
serious oversight...  
we know, the Ameri...  
nsor, the American...  
Middle East Regio...  
contributing volun...  
tribute, when their...  
were to be found in...  
Recognition, and...  
international produc...

Farid H...  
ADC Value...  
Amman

## A battle lost but a war won for S. Africa's blacks

By James Flannery  
Reuters

**BLOOD RIVER, South Africa** — Tribal warriors with spears lost to superior-armed white forces at Blood River but it turned out to be just one battle in a war that blacks finally won in South Africa.

This is the desolate place that gave the world the African word *laager*, a defensive circle of wagons that turned out to be more a closed state of mind than a military doctrine.

A humiliating defeat here for blacks dogged South Africa's majority population during white rule. But it inspired the liberation struggle of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress which took power in all-race elections last month.

War memorials litter South Africa's colonial battlefields, like Blood River, but hardly any honour the "other side" — valiant black fighters.

"I think in the next couple of years we shall see the appearance of solid tributes to black military feats," says military historian David Rattray, an expert on the Zulu wars.

At present the victories and defeats of South Africa's warrior tribe of Zulus, the nation's largest black group still with a pivotal role, go without much public acknowledgement.

Grandiose marble, stone and steel relics pay tribute just to the white troops, African and British, slain in clashes of the West's 19th century "scramble for Africa."

To the closed-minds of white supremacists, heroism was for European soldiers — their opponents were merely "bloodthirsty savages," honoured in only a couple of places, at Rorke's Drift, a British victory, and at Ulundi, where the British finally smashed the Zulu nation.

Among the most extraordinary memorials in the world is a full-scale metal reconstruction, on the sun-baked plains of KwaZulu-Natal, of a Boer fighting laager.

Built to last centuries, here is a colossal ring of 64 replica ox-wagons, made of cast-steel, overlaid with bronze. An almost unbelievable sight on remote grassland in the former Zululand, about 350 kilometres southeast of Johannesburg.

This is a well-spring for Afrikanerdom, marking a so-called day of the vow when Boer trekking to God if granted victory over their Zulu foes.

They had just a week to wait. They drew their wagons lashed together into a tight

circle on the banks of the Noome River, a tributary of the Thukela. And at dawn on Dec. 16, 1838, they were attacked by 10,000 Zulu warriors.

Backed by cannons, the Boers, each armed with five muskets reloaded by their wives, dispersed the warriors, killing 3,000 Zulus. Only three of 470 trekkers were wounded, none fatally.

Not a single Zulu got closer than 10 metres of the laager. In three hours of carnage, the adjacent river ran red with blood — hence the name given by the Boers, Blood River.

It confirmed their belief in a God-given destiny in pushing into a promised land — though some historians doubt the authenticity of the vow which made Dec. 16 the most sacred day in the Afrikaner calendar.

True to false, there is nothing at the Blood River monument to honour the extreme bravery of spear-carrying Zulu warriors, cut down by superior weapons in repeated charges.

It was an early milestone in a series of settler wars, ending in the 1979 British victory at Ulundi, capital of the KwaZulu former black homeland. The battles marked one of history's greatest challenges offered by an indigenous population to advancing Europeans.

Now, with the assumption of power of the black majority, the war — from these bush battlefields through townships such as Sharpeville past conquerors' instruments of oppression like apartheid — is over.

"The European conquest has been reversed," wrote white South African editor Ken Owen. "The voting undid the outcome of nine frontier wars and innumerable skirmishes. The great trek was stripped of symbolism."

"This election has liberated black South Africans, not only from the oppressions of apartheid, or even from white rule, but from a crushing history of three centuries of defeat and humiliation."

"Blood River and Ulundi are merely lost battles in a victorious war, mere setbacks, like Dunkirk for Britain or Pearl Harbour for Americans."

Already here the mystique of the "vow" seems on the wane. On a public holiday it drew only a few visitors. Zulu children sold carvings of buffaloes, their spread horns marking the classic Zulu tactic of frontal assault and encirclement.

"The whites in their laager, despite superior weapons and resources, finally were overtaken by greater numbers."

By Youssef Azmeh  
Reuters

**DUBAI** — Superior north Yemeni forces mercilessly pounded southern strongholds in their drive towards Aden on Wednesday but military experts asked what would they do if and when they reached the outskirts of the city.

They said President Ali Abdullah Saleh's northern armies may well capture the key Al Anad military base 60 kilometres north of Aden, enabling them to link up with other Saleh forces entrenched close to Aden along the eastern coast.

But this in itself would not bring about the downfall of southern leaders holed up in Aden who appear to have rallied the majority of southern Yemenis behind them in their defiance of Mr. Saleh's authority.

Mr. Saleh's foreign minister said on Tuesday northern forces did not need to capture Aden because its people themselves would drive out the president's rivals led by his Vice-President and arch-foe Ali Salem Al Beidh.

But this was dismissed by most experts as rhetoric two weeks after Mr. Saleh launched his all-out attack to unseat Mr. Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) that has dominated southern Yemen for more than 25 years.

The experts said that barring a political settlement, which the president has rejected, Mr. Saleh had two options — to try to storm Aden or lay siege to the city in the hope of forcing its surrender.

Neither option was attractive or to Mr. Saleh's advantage, they said.

If he were to storm the city, he would face well-armed and



Hundreds of foreigners wait in the port of Aden for their turn to be evacuated by sea to Djibouti across the Gulf of Aden May 6, two days after civil war erupted (AFP photo)

## Yemen: no easy victory

highly-motivated defenders likely to fight a classical urban guerrilla war that would be both bloody and costly.

The experts said Aden was heavily fortified and the YSP had kept 30,000 men in reserve to defend the city of 350,000 people.

"The people of Aden will defend the city because, rightly or wrongly, they believe they will be massacred by Mr. Saleh's men," said one Arab diplomat with close southern connections.

"They see the northern tribesmen who from the mainstay of Mr. Saleh's army as

cut-throats and bandits who would wreak havoc in secular Aden in the name of Islam," he said.

He was referring to the longstanding antipathy between the highly-conservative and largely lawless mountain tribes people of the north and the relatively modernised and liberated people of Aden.

Northerners see Adenis as godless Communists who allow their women to go uncovered, rarely go to the mosque and drink beer in public.

Diplomats in the region say these differences were at the root of resentment that led to

the war threatening to end the 1990 merger of Mr. Saleh's North Yemen with the larger South that has only one-fifth of Yemen's total population of 13 million.

The military experts said Mr. Saleh's second option — besieging Aden — was unlikely to bring about the downfall of its leaders who have all to lose if they were to surrender to a president known for his ruthlessness in dealing with political opponents.

A lengthy siege would also stretch Mr. Saleh's communications lines along the treacherous terrain.

It would expose his armies' rearward and supply lines to attack by tribesmen eager for booty and by YSP militiamen and their southern supporters.

Mr. Saleh could shell the city to bring it to submission, but such action against an urban centre packed with civilians was likely to raise an international outcry and could backfire against him, the experts said.

The southern air force, operating from Aden airport and other Russian-built airports further east, was also likely to be more effective in harassing the northern troops once they

come out into open country around Aden, they added.

Aden has been using its superior air power to attack Mr. Saleh's advancing armies but experts believe it has not been effective in halting their advance along the mountains and ravines of present fronts in the hills mainly north of the city.

"The longer it lasts, the easier it becomes for the south, as their own supply lines get shorter, and the harder it becomes for the north," a Gulf-based military analyst said.

"No one is going to win an early victory," said another.

## 'Forgotten' in Jerusalem

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

**SHEIKH JARRAH, Jerusalem** — As the Palestinians of Jericho and Gaza enter the era of self-rule, their brethren in Jerusalem can look forward to no such future. Plagued by daily confrontations with the Israeli military and a virtual siege dividing them from the rest of West Bank, Arab Jerusalemis feel that time and the Arab World has forgotten their existence.

Keepers of the holy places, Muslims and Christians, Arabs, Greeks, Armenians and countless other non-Jewish minority groups, who have called Jerusalem their home for hundreds if not thousands of years, have been cut off from family and friends in the West Bank for much of the last six years due to Israeli military and security regulations.

The security of Israel is threatened by East Jerusalem that is "open to the West Bank," claim the Israelis. Thus monstrous road blocks and military check points surround all roads which enter into the holy city.

West Bankers, with the exception of a selected few who must get a security clearance from the Israeli military, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem for "security reasons."

"Every Palestinian is a terrorist unless he/she proves otherwise," Abu Yassin, a taxi driver taking an arduous and dangerous back road into Jerusalem from Ramallah, says jokingly.

Mr. Abu Yassin is a native of Ramallah, whose taxi/service route from Ramallah to Jerusalem was interrupted by the security regulations imposed by Israel banning West Bank residents from entering Jerusalem. He has a West Bank identification card and a light blue West Bank licence plate which distinguishes his car on site.

Light blue coloured identification cards differentiate a West Banker from a Jerusalemite. A West Bank identification card identifies an individual by name, sex, age, religion and place of residence. A Jerusalemite card identifies people along the same lines with the difference that religion in the classical sense is not mentioned under the religion category is written either Arab or Jew.

Jerusalemis, as well as Israeli cars, have yellow licence plates. Thus, West Bank cars are easily spotted and quickly turned away at the check points.

Even doctors, who are staff at the Arab Makassad Hospital in Jerusalem and have Israeli military permission to enter the city, are often turned away at check points.

"Patients have died because the Israelis would not allow them into Jerusalem," says Shawkat Harb, head of the Ramallah Hospital who performs surgeries at the Makassad several times a week.

The "closure" of Jerusalem, as West Bankers call it, has created serious administrative problems for the Palestinian society, many of whose main health, media and educational institutions are based in Jerusalem.

The other day when Dennis Ross was in Tunis speaking to Yasser Arafat, I sent an urgent message to Tunis: "tell the Americans we need to get into Jerusalem," recalls Hanna Nasser, the head of Bir Zeit University near Ramallah.

"The Arab World is talk-

ing about 'liberating' Jerusalem when the fact of the matter is we can't even get in," explains Dr. Nasser bitterly.

The Jerusalem-based Orient House remains the main meeting point for Palestinian negotiators and it is the building which is considered, by Palestinians, to be the "seat" of the future Palestinian self-government.

It is where the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO's) main representative in the occupied territories, Faisal Hussein, welcomes foreign and official guests on behalf of the future government. But Israelis, who recently began demonstrating in front of the Orient House to protest the "official" Palestinian presence in Jerusalem, see it as evidence of Palestinian "designs" on the city.

This reporter was unable to find one Israeli, among supporters of the ruling Labour Party, the liberal Meretz Party or the Likud Party, who supported the withdrawal of Israel from East Jerusalem or the part of Jerusalem occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

Palestinians consider Jerusalem to be just as much their city as Israelis do. U.N. resolutions and international law clearly state that East Jerusalem is "occupied territory", something Israel has thus far refused to acknowledge.

"The Israelis want to make Jerusalem a de facto Israeli city so that by the time we want to negotiate over its status and our rights here the facts on the ground will prevent any changes," says legal advisor to the Orient House Ziad Abu Ziad.

Human rights organisations, media bureaus as well as cultural centres based in Jerusalem are only partially functioning due to the fact that their employees, most of whom live outside the city, are not allowed to enter Jerusalem.

Land and property confiscation take place almost daily. The city has been entirely encircled by Jewish settlements and "rumour" has it that many of the Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza are being promised "re-settlement" in Jerusalem as compensation for their leaving the settlements that they are in.

Thus the Arabs of Jerusalem fear that their presence in their city will remain "symbolic" rather than functional if Israel is to have its way in the negotiations with the PLO.

"Everyone says 'no peace without Jerusalem' but practically they can't force the Israelis to obey international laws," says Yacoub Alami, a merchant in the old city.

Work had only just begun in January on the reconstruction of an Old Jerusalem home that is to be transformed into the Al Wasiti Art Centre — "a place in Palestine for Art and Artists," but even here the strains of the occupation are evident.

Work on the centre, located in the prestigious Sheikh Jarrah quarter, has come to a halt for lack of available labour.

"All the workers are from outside Jerusalem and they can't get in — so we had to put the project on halt," says Vera Tamari, one of the founders of the centre.

"Israel does not want a Palestinian cultural centre in Jerusalem — Israel does not want Jerusalem to be part of Palestine — but of course it is," she says.

## Mad cows and an English disease

By Jürgen Krönig

**BRITISH POLITICIANS** threaten to take legal action against Bonn: a Shropshire farmer cancels an £80,000 order for German farm machinery; enraged politicians in Dublin accuse the German government of "dirty tricks". Scientists beg to differ and principles are compromised: "separating" (protectionism) and (not least in Britain) "well done Bonn". Germany's stated intention to ban British beef because of BSE — bovine spongiform encephalitis or "mad cow disease" — is sowing a lot of relationships.

The conflict highlights the cultural difference between the British and the German governments. The German health minister, Horst Seehofer, and his scientists argue that BSE is still poorly understood. They say BSE has proved more easily transmissible between mammals than previously thought.

Mice, pigs, monkeys — the last two are the animals most physiologically similar to man — have all developed the disease after being fed or injected with BSE-infected brain tissue. Therefore, they argue, the transmission of BSE to humans cannot be ruled out conclusively.

Moreover, they insist, we do not yet know the BSE incubation period — it may be 20 or even 30 years. In other words, Mr. Seehofer

and his scientists, believe they are acting on the basis of the worst possible scenario.

British ministers, meanwhile, consistently choose the best possible scenario for BSE. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) says there is no evidence that the disease can affect humans. But even HM scientists admit, at least indirectly, that there remains a risk, however "remote."

Both sides accept that BSE may be caused by cattle feed containing sheep's offal and infected with scrapie, a deadly brain disease known for 200 years. MAFF also accepts there's a possibility that BSE has no direct link with scrapie but might be caused by cows being constantly refed their own infected brains.

The uncertainty is growing. The concentrated feed was banned in 1989 and one year later, MAFF predicted there would probably be no more than 20,000 BSE cases. Despite equally reassuring forecasts in later years, the number of infected British cattle has risen to more than 120,000. More than 650 cattle a week are still slaughtered and British government assurances that the epidemic is in retreat were based only on suspected cases.

What is puzzling is that more than 8,000 cattle born after the concentrated feed was banned have developed BSE. A significant proportion come from herds with no

BSE history, which casts doubt on possible material transmission, not yet discounted completely by MAFF.

Should scientists be looking elsewhere for an explanation? Only with pressure from the former British defence secretary, Tom King, was MAFF persuaded to arrange a meeting of its scientists with Mark Purdey, an organic farmer (and thorn in the side of the ministry) who believes the cause of BSE might be found in low dose chronic poisoning of cows by pesticides known as organophosphorous compounds (OPs).

The epidemic, he points out, is most intense in those areas (the South-West, Dorset, Wiltshire, Hampshire) designated by MAFF as "warble fly eradication zones" in the early 1980s. In these zones, all farmers were legally obliged to treat their cattle with organophosphorous insecticides — in particular Phosmat, Famphur and Fenton. These chemicals, based on nerve gases developed in Nazi Germany, were recently accused of causing a number of disorders in people involved in sheep-dipping.

When one of Mr. Purdey's cows, which he had bought in 1991, developed BSE symptoms, he treated it with Oxime, the antidote given to British and U.S. troops against possible nerve gas

poisoning in the Gulf war. The cow recovered, but MAFF officials insisted on putting the animal down and Mr. Purdey was denied further access to the drug for continuing treatment.

The ministry did not seem interested, says Mr. Purdey, in taking up the OP line of research but the scientific advisory committee of the Journal of Nutritional Medicine was sufficiently impressed by his theory to accept his lengthy paper for publication in March.

Mr. Purdey points to three sources of chronic OP poisoning in the 1980s: pour-on chemicals used against warble fly and lice, that penetrate the cattle through the skin; citrus pulp with high residues of OP pesticides widely used in Britain as a cheap source of cattle-feed; and OP residues in concentrated cattle feed containing meat from sheep which since 1984 have been dipped twice a year in chemical cocktails.

Compulsory dipping stopped in 1992 but most sheep are still dipped. The British government fights hard against any doubts which might endanger the dominance of the official scrapie-BSE line. MAFF officials stress that their scientists have looked for a connection between agro-chemicals and BSE, but no correlation has been found.

What they have not done, though, is look at the consequences of low-dose, chro-

nical OP poisoning. A study would take many years but in the meantime Mr. Purdey's theory has obvious advantages: it could explain why the numbers of mad cows have risen dramatically despite the ban on concentrated cattle feed; it could explain why only British has been seriously affected by BSE (there have been 83 cases in Ireland, 57 in Switzerland, six in France and just one in Germany and Denmark).

The strength of the British chemical industry, as Sir Richard Body, former Tory MP and head of the Commons agriculture committee would confirm, has shaped British agriculture since 1945. Certain brands of OP insecticides, not recommended by the World Health Organisation, have been widely used in Britain and in no other country has OP concentration and frequency of use been as high.

Between 1989 and 1991, at the height of the BSE scares, the licences of three OP-containing pesticides were not renewed by MAFF. Could this be seen as a silent retreat? The open question remains, however: MAFF's own medicine directorate licensed the OP compounds. Did the ministry demand and receive adequate testing for adverse results, asks Richard North, a former environmental health officer and now a consultant on food safety.

Some British scientists predict that BSE and CJD

(Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease), the human version of the deadly brain disease, are closely connected and are caused by the same agent — a mutated protein or prion.

Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University has demanded many times that the consumption of beef should be stopped and all infected herds should be slaughtered.

He claims it is enough to eat the meat of BSE-infected cattle to run the risk of developing CJD and believes it could be the biggest medical problem of the next century, more threatening, even, than AIDS. Mark Purdey at least believes that BSE caused by OPs represents limited danger. In contrast to Mr. Lacey, who thinks the scrapie virus is responsible, he suggests that OPs trigger the mutation of the brain protein.

Mr. Lacey's dark scenario may well be proven wrong, but what should a responsible politician do?

The German government is in an unenviable position. It is not supported by EU health and agriculture ministers and its demands for a Europe-wide ban on British beef have gone unheard. For the past month, German Health Minister Seehofer and his cabinet colleagues have fretted about what to do.

Should they retreat in the face of European opposition, or stick to the high moral ground and the principle of safe-guarding the health of their people against possible

danger?

A decision will be made in the next few weeks. In the meantime they expect the EU to suggest a Euro solution. If they don't, they seem prepared to take drastic action. As Mr. Seehofer said last month, "We can't go on like this because it amounts to using humans as guinea pigs."

Halfway measures, such as banning meat from animals over three years old and from herds not clear of BSE for more than four years, are regarded as impractical, not least because British vets and officials would have to certify

this. MAFF, of course, has let it be known that the British government would not feel obliged to support these measures, which they would argue are a breach of European law.

But the prospects for the British government and the industry are grim. British beef's image will continue to suffer as long as there is BSE in the land. With no real indication that the epidemic is going away, Britain can at best hope for a hollow European victory.

Jürgen Krönig is the London correspondent of the weekly German newspaper Die Zeit.

North Korea told

(Continued from page 1)

could still carry out meaningful checks of the rods that remain in the reactor. A fresh IAEA team was put on standby to fly to North Korea.

"As of today, it still seems possible to implement the required safeguards measures," the agency said.

Inspection of the spent rods would enable the IAEA to determine their age and verify whether any material had been diverted to make plutonium, a key ingredient in an atomic bomb.

The West suspects Pyongyang might have removed some of the fuel when the reactor was mysteriously shut down in 1989.

U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry telephoned South Korean Defence Minister Rhee Bong-Tae on Friday to discuss the nuclear and security steps on the peninsula, a ministry spokesman said without giving details.

Some Western governments and intelligence agencies believe North Korea already possesses a crude nuclear device. Mr. Perry has said the Yongbyon reactor could hold enough material to make up to five nuclear bombs.

On Thursday, Mr. Perry described the situation as "a very substantial near-term crisis in the world today."



## Rich nations accused of cutting aid to poor

GENEVA (R) — Rich countries were accused by a coalition of major non-governmental aid organisations of cutting assistance to the developing world and abandoning over a billion people who live in poverty.

The annual report, "The Reality of Aid, 1994," the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) said.

Denmark, Ireland and New Zealand among industrialised states were planned to increase aid in the next

few years.

The 162-page report also argued aid was becoming more commercialised and linked to creating advantages for business in donor states.

"The reality of aid in 1994 is depressing," the Geneva-based ICVA said. "With a few exceptions, donors appear to be failing to live up to their commitments on aid volume."

Harder economic times at home were bringing on "aid fatigue," the report suggested.

"In some countries recession appears to be increasing people's preoccupation with domestic needs," charity begins at home," it said.

More than a billion people around the world live in absolute poverty, eight million children died annually from preventable childhood diseases and one in three in poor states was stunted by malnutrition, the report said.

But member countries of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development (OECD) appeared to see economic adjustment and reform as being the essential conditions for development, and focused aid accordingly, the report added.

"It is as if the alleviation of poverty is a bonus which is sure to follow," the ICVA declared.

"Until donors make poverty reduction their first priority, until improvements in the quality of life for the world's poorest people are seen as the

benchmark of success for aid, billions of dollars a year will continue to be diverted away from families for whom under-employment, disease and malnutrition are everyday realities," it added.

The report said Japan, which provides 20 per cent of total overseas development aid from OECD members, planned a substantial increase over the next five years — although it warned economic woes had produced pressures in Tokyo for cuts.

Denmark, which devotes around one per cent of its gross national product (GNP) to aid, Ireland and New Zealand were also projecting higher targets. But they accounted for only 2.6 per cent of the OECD total.

The report said even traditionally generous donors like the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway had begun to cut back, although from much higher portions of GDP of around one per cent.

## Russia frees companies to export arms — Interfax

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government has decided to allow arms and military technology companies to export their excess production and sign contracts with Western partners, Interfax News Agency reported.

The move seemed to signal the end of a state monopoly in the arms exporting business set up just four months ago to bring order to the trade.

Under the new arrangements, which Interfax said were intended to increase the effectiveness of military-technical cooperation with Western companies, the government would continue to ban sales of certain weapons.

It would also have the final word on the countries to which arms could be exported — a clear reference to United Nations embargoes on arms supplies to certain states.

Companies seeking to export arms would be screened and would need special registration, Interfax said. They would have the right to export production beyond what the state required.

The Rosvooruzheniye state monopoly, answerable to the government, was set up to handle all arms exports.

Russian arms exports have fallen sharply in recent years and last year were worth \$2.2 billion, Interfax said.

## Weekly analysis of movements and trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates are given as of Wednesday, May 18, 1994.

### Overview

**Fundamental View:** Central banks have followed up their dollar-buying intervention with interest rate hikes in the U.S. and cuts in Germany and Japan, but sentiment towards the dollar remains weak. We continue to believe that the dollar will eventually move higher against the Deutschmark, but will remain weak against the yen. With the potential for Germany's discount rate to be cut only one more time this year following the 50 basis point cut on May 11, we recently moderated our forecast for the Deutschmark to a 12-month target of DM/USD 1.75.

We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

**Technical View:** Aided by massive central bank intervention in support of the U.S. dollar, the dollar index was up 0.6 per cent for the week ended May 6. This gain broke a string of three straight weekly losses. Sentiment has been improving in recent weeks, but is still no better than neutral. Continued strength into Monday and Tuesday of this week has allowed short term momentum to turn up from an oversold condition and is even beginning to put pressure on medium term momentum.

Thus, the prospects for a potentially important May low appear to be improving. Support exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through the 93.50-94.00 would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would probably clinch it.

### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** Fearing a rout in the dollar, the Clinton administration has reportedly resigned itself to the need for tighter monetary policy and a stronger dollar to brake growth and curb potential inflationary pressures in the U.S. But the administration continues to give mixed signals, with the U.S. Trade Representative saying on May 18 that trade policy toward Japan remains unchanged since February despite other indications that the administration will back away from its aggressive push for trade concessions for Japan, which appeared to be linked to its changed policy on the dollar.

The yen could also prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance. Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the yen from breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

**Technical View:** The Japanese yen fell 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 6 and dropped an additional 2.0 per cent on Monday and Tuesday. Sentiment remains neutral. Both short and medium term momentum indicators are peaking, suggesting that the rally from last March's low (near 106 Y/USD), and perhaps from last January's low (near 113) is coming to an end. Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may well be positioned for its most extended period of weakness in months.

At the least, it is likely that any nearby strength will not be technically confirmed. The pressures are, therefore, mounting. With that in mind, 106-110 is viewed as significant support; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. With the recent move to new highs, 97-98 is now indicated resistance.

### Deutschmark

**Fundamental View:** Following concerted dollar-buying intervention by central banks in Europe, Japan, and the U.S. last week, the Bundesbank appears to be cooperating with international efforts to support dollar by cutting its interest rates as well. On May 11, the Bundesbank cut its official discount rate by 50 basis points to 4.5 per cent, and is expected to continue to cut the repo rate by nearly 100 basis points over the next twelve months.

In contrast, the Fed hiked its Federal funds rate and discount rate by 50 basis points on May 18 and is expected to nudge rates another 25 basis points higher by the end of the summer. Fearing a rout in the dollar, there are signs that the Clinton administration has resigned itself to the need for tighter monetary policy and a stronger dollar in order to curb potential inflationary pressures.

The administration also appears to be backing away from its aggressive push for trade concessions from Japan in order to avoid suspicions that it favours an undervalued currency. Although U.S. trade negotiators continue to give mixed signals, the apparent change in the U.S. stance on trade may have been the cue for Germany to cooperate in supporting the dollar.

With the potential for Germany's discount rate to be cut only one more time this year following the cut on May 11, we recently moderated our forecast for the Deutschmark to a 12-month target of DM/USD 1.75.

**Technical View:** The Deutschmark lost 0.5 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and dropped an additional 0.7 per cent in early trading this week. Sentiment is neutral. Despite this strength and the fact that the underlying uptrend is mature, there is still some doubt that the currency rally is actually complete. Short term momentum has peaked, but medium term oscillators are still in an uptrend, suggesting that a higher high later in May is still a possibility.

First resistance is 1.63-1.64 DM/USD, with second resistance at last October's high near 1.59. Nearby support exists at 1.675-1.695; a break of that level would allow for 1.72-1.73. The mark/yen cross-rate was down 0.1 per cent last week. Although short term momentum is peaking, medium term oscillators are bottoming.

### Pound sterling

**Fundamental View:** The British pound inched higher against Deutschmark to DM/GBP 2.50 this week and moved markedly higher against the U.S. dollar to U.S.\$/GBP 1.51. Signs of economic strength despite recent tax hikes supported the pound. The leader of the Labour Party suffered a fatal heart attack last week, improving the outlook for the Conservatives and thus for the pound.

We believe that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity. A modest uptick in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of sizable German rate cuts should lead the pound up to DM/GBP 2.60 in 12 months.

The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds. We expect the pound to trade at U.S.\$/GBP 1.49 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

**Technical View:** The British pound lost 1.7 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 6, and was the weakest of the six major currencies we most closely monitor. Sentiment is no worse than neutral. The currency is now nicely back into the middle of its multi-month trading range.

Reflecting the intervention of the past week, short term momentum has peaked, implying a move to nearby support at 1.46-1.48 U.S.\$/L; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

Resistance exists at \$1.55. The DM cross-rate fell 1.2 per cent last week after making a new 1994 low. Both short and medium term momentum oscillators are weak. Last week's lows at least allows for a challenge of 2.43-44. Resistance is at 2.53-2.56.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY MAY 23, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES**  
Bring your finest talents to the attention of higher-ups who can assist you in getting the backing you need for a worthy project. Show that you have poise when handling personal and private responsibilities.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have a good opportunity now to handle business matters wisely and advance in your line of endeavour. Be optimistic in your success.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You are able to gain personal aims easily during the day, but not in the evening when you are not thinking clearly for what you desire.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are able to organise your life more intelligently in the morning, but don't make foolish changes later in the day or there will be problems.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Look to good friends for help in furthering your pet projects during the daytime. Handle daily chores in the evening time.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Plan how to improve your reputation and show that you are an excellent citizen. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will have much put aside for later.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Morning is the best time for expansion in career activities.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 24, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** As we experience the Lunar eclipse at the Full Moon in Sagittarius, combined with the Moon sextile Neptune and Uranus will want to put a new course of action into operation.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study new ideas that could lead to advancement in your line of endeavour. Enjoy the company of close ties tonight and you can have a wonderful time.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Don't criticise a close tie at this time or there could be a severance of connections. Don't rely on your intuition today.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You can get excellent results if you are more supportive of associates. Maintain your poise at all times today and you will show confidence.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Get an early start on tasks ahead of you and gain benefits. Be more cooperative with fellow associates you deal with.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Figure out a practical way that could give you added security in the days ahead. Follow the advice of a financial expert and you will come out on top.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You know exactly how to improve conditions at home, so

Follow every rule and regulation that applies to you and you can never go wrong.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Be sure to keep your part of any contract you have negotiated with others. Try to have more rapport with your mate tonight and have a wonderful evening.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Try to understand the aims of associates better so that you can coordinate your efforts more gainfully. Be poised for any situation.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You have to make some changes if you are to gain your aims at this time. Strive to be more successful in the eyes of loved ones and bigwigs.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Engage in familiar activities which could bring you pleasure and profit. Take no risks where your health is concerned.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Try to cooperate with ideas of family members. Make your home more comfortable. Avoid one who gossips about some special secret.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Look to a higher-up for the support you need in a new project you have in mind. A good evening for quiet relaxation with your loved one.

don't waste any time. Show more devotion to loved ones who live within your house.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Gain the cooperation of close ties for gaining a personal aim. Steer clear of one who has an eye on your assets or you could lose them.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Analyse personal aspects of your life and figure out the best way to improve them. This is not a good day for taking risks with health or wealth.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Daytime hours are best for pursuing personal aims. Obtain the information you need from the right sources so you can get ahead.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Morning is best spent handling career matters. A new plan needs more study before you put it in operation at this time.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A business matter could cause you to worry early in the day but later it turns out fine for you. Strive for happiness with your home.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Morning is fine for handling civic matters. In the afternoon influential persons can help you advance in career matters you are involved in.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 21, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Although there are no exact aspects today you can follow your hunches as long as you handle all your duties painstakingly and make proper plans to rid yourself of whatever deters your progress.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Morning is best for handling responsibilities and to avoid unpleasant strife in the afternoon. Happiness can be yours by what you get done.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Study your surroundings and make long-range plans for improvement. Attend a social function in the evening and have a wonderful time.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You have tasks to do which require special care, so be precise and gain added benefits. Be happy with loved ones at home.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) It may seem difficult to gain your aims early in the day but conditions are bound to improve later for you and those around you.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) A good day to reach a fine understanding with your family and to keep any promises you have made. Engage in your favourite hobby today.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Morning is fine for hand-

ling routine chores, but be alert for possible danger in the afternoon. Cooperate more with others.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Use good judgment in the morning where finances are concerned, but later there are likely to be confusing conditions present.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Showing others that you are a true friend will gain their added goodwill now. Don't neglect important business matters.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Know what your true desires are and how best to attain them. Be more optimistic about the future and what it holds for you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A good friend can be of help to you today, so accept and get busy on projects. Avoid the social events occurring in the evening.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Delve into civic matters of importance and gain the assistance of loyal friends. Engage in hobbies with congenial friends tonight.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Take a new approach on a matter that has been puzzling you for a long time and you solve it wisely. Be alert at all times.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY MAY 22, 1994

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** An important day and evening for you to tie loose ends together and to make sure that you understand both sides of a dispute that you could allow yourself to be drawn into. Strive for neutrality.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are able to carry through with some creative task and get excellent results. Make plans for the future for you and the ones in your life.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Get rid of some strange condition at home and maintain concord there. Avoid one who may want to harm you in some way.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Got to places where you can express your finest philosophy of life. Be more precise in handling a personal matter which have appeared.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A good day to seek the company of family members and friends. Follow the advice of an expert into whatever will help you progress.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Don't be forceful with anyone early in the day. Try to be with persons with whom you have much in common. Be poised for any situation.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Morning is fine for meditating on lofty concepts and thinking about the future. Im-

prove your social skills and you will be successful.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Contact influential persons and get their advice for gaining personal aims. Take no risks with your reputation today in any way.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to follow all rules and regulations which apply to you. Contact good friends in the afternoon and discuss what the future holds for you.

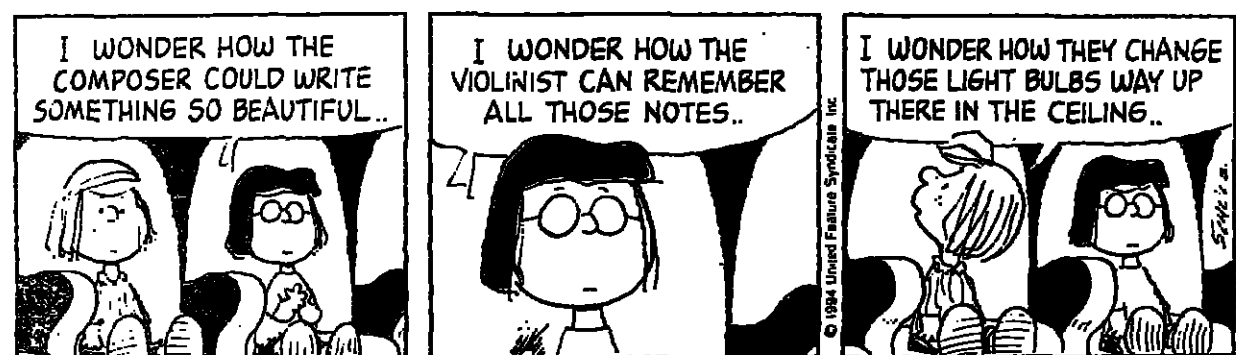
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) A new project you have in mind (perhaps more study before you put into operation. Take needed health treatments which you must have.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) A good day to visit friends and relatives for mutual satisfaction. Make long-range plans for the days ahead about projects in the works.

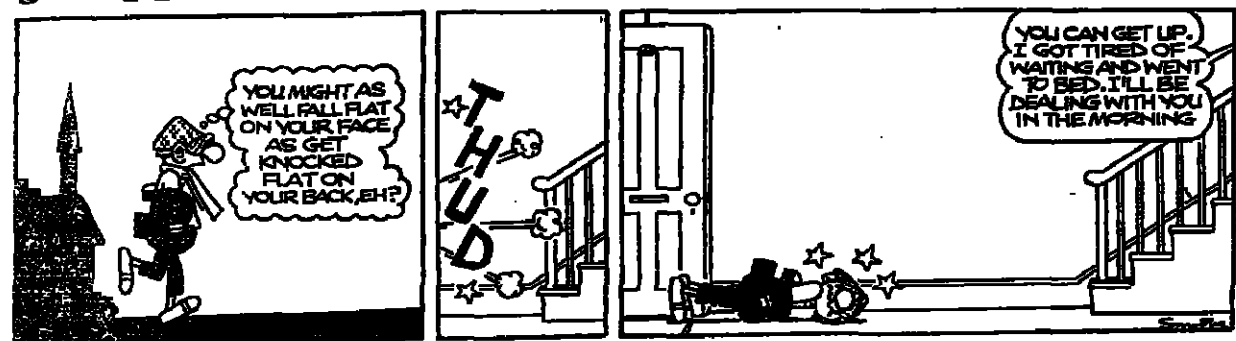
**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do your best to avoid an argument with close ties. Follow advice of a friend who has your best interests at heart.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to please one who has done you many favours in the past and then carry through with what is being done. Strive for happiness.

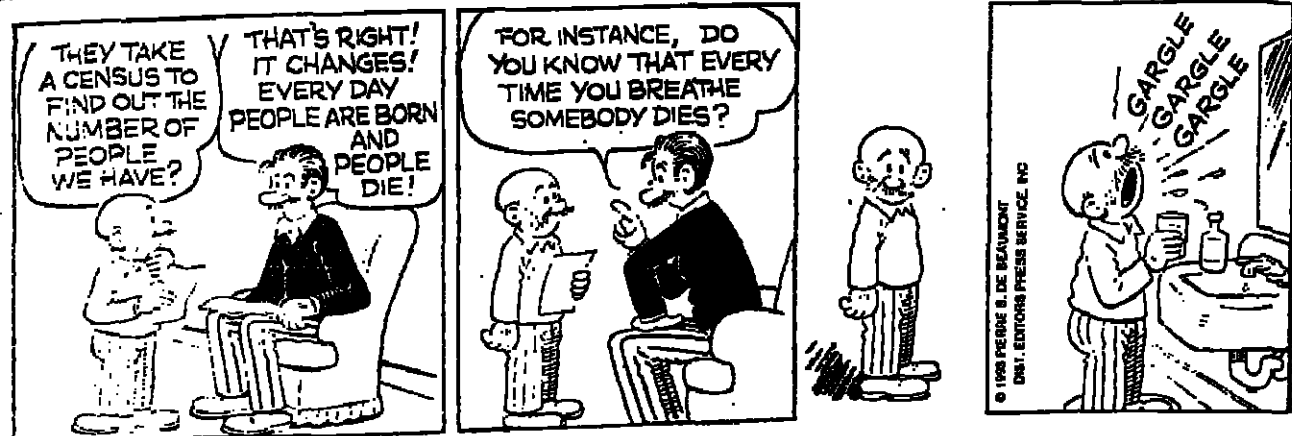
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp

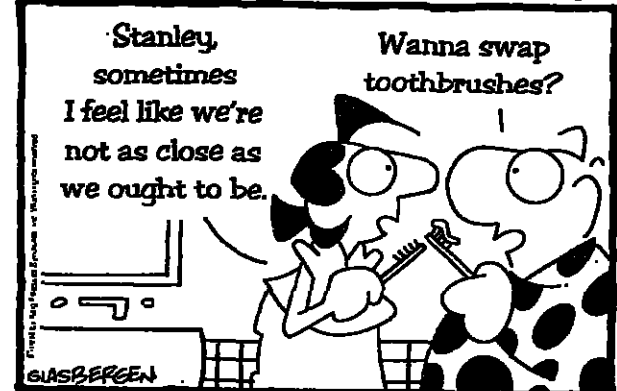


## Mutt'n'Jeff



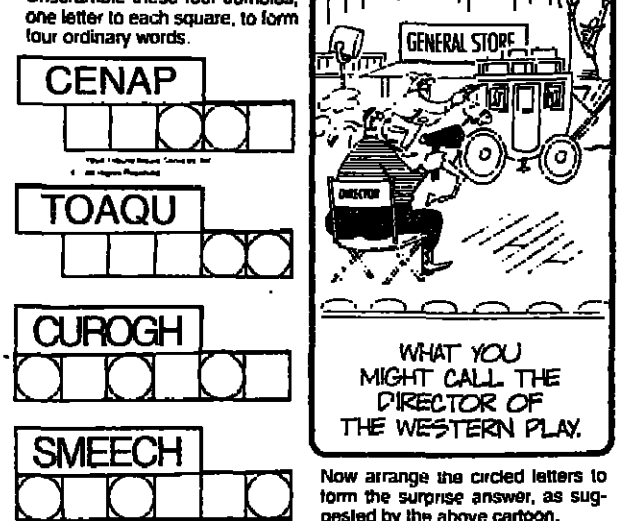
## THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

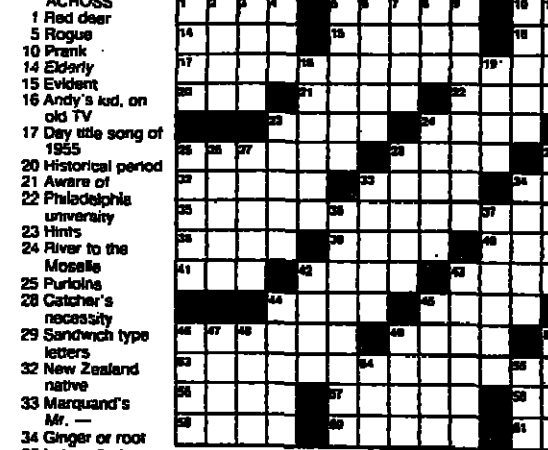
Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: WAGER GROUP MAKEUP GRAYON

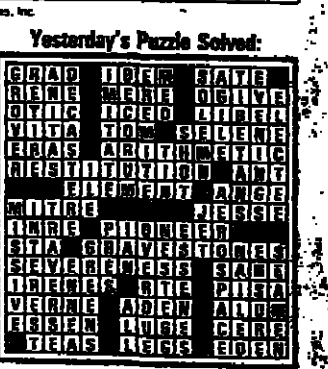
Answer: What a pulp mill manager never runs out of — PAPER WORK

## THE Daily Crossword

by Matthew Higgins



- ACROSS**
- Red deer
  - Rose
  - Frank
  - Elk
  - Elk
  - Andy's kid, on old TV
  - Day title song of 1955
  - 20 Historical period
  - 21 Avers of
  - 22 Philadelphia university
  - 23 River to the Moselle
  - 24 Purloine
  - 25 Cuthbert's necessity
  - 29 Sandwich type letters
  - 32 New Zealand native
  - 33 Marquand's
  - 34 Ginger or root
  - 35 Late sailor's offense
  - 38 Gash
  - 39 "Battle Cry"
  - 40 "The Old — Buck"
  - 41 Lyrer
  - 42 Bure's hillside
  - 43 Gore
  - 44 The — Express
  - 45 Carrier, e.g.
  - 46 Sleep slope
  - 48 Priest's robes
  - 49 "I smell —"
  - 50 Mischief maker
  - 53 Theodora and Wally show
  - 56 Mickey causer
  - 57 Var
  - 58 — can non
  - 59 Iowa town
  - 60 Moslem prince
  - 61 Story scheme
- DOWN**
- 1 Robust
  - 2 Shrewish
  - 3 Russian river
  - 4 The
  - 5 Play parts
  - 6 Coagulates
  - 7 Dynamic
  - 8 — de mer
  - 9 Rapedious one
  - 10 Swan
  - 11 Highest point
  - 12 Frost
  - 13 Hui member
  - 14 John Huston's
  - 15 "Rogue"
  - 16 Insertion mark
  - 17 Rad dye
  - 18 Postpone
  - 19 Rad dye
  - 20 Enbanment
  - 21 Council of —
  - 23 Voracious
  - 24 Blackops
  - 25 Gumbel
  - 26 Little side
  - 27 Teller's line
  - 28 Malacca
  - 43 Talkative one
  - 44 Sult —
  - 45 Wicked
  - 46 Gumbel
  - 47 Teller's line
  - 48 Malacca
  - 49 Sult —
  - 50 Wicked
  - 51 Furry day
  - 52 Worry
  - 53 Teller's line
  - 54 Viper









## Battle rages for Rwandan capital after hospital bombed

KIGALI (R) — Rwandan rebels and government forces battled with mortar and artillery early Friday in Kigali in some of the most intense clashes the capital has suffered so far, witnesses said.

The fighting had raged through the night, with red and green tracer lighting the sky over the blood-soaked city where hours earlier at least 30 patients in hospital were killed in a mortar attack.

Mortar and artillery fire were most intense around the key government barracks at Kigali, just east of the airport, and around the police headquarters.

"Is this the final battle for Kigali? I don't know. The RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) is squeezing more tightly," U.N. military chief Major-General Romeo Dallaire told Reuters.

The rebels were apparently trying to battle into submission their foes in the Kanombe garrison and the main police barracks.

Gen. Dallaire, commander of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), said he would try again to get the government to hand control of the airport to U.N. forces to make it neutral.

The airport is used to bring in vital humanitarian supplies and will be needed for troop reinforcements agreed by the Security Council but not yet assembled.

Gen. Dallaire added: "Unless government forces agree today to make the airport neutral the U.N. will use another airfield to land troops and supplies. This will probably be a considerable distance from Kigali."

He said he was considering withdrawing some of the 200 peacekeepers pinned down at Kigali Airport.

The RPF has repeatedly said it would agree to hand over the airport to U.N. control but government forces have refused.

While government guns are positioned there, the rebels say

the airport remains a legitimate military target.

Some 5,000 reinforcements for the 450 UNAMIR peacekeepers on the ground in Rwanda were ordered in by the Security Council this week — although there were no public firm commitments of troops from African and Western nations approached.

The troops are needed to try to stop massacres in which aid agencies say 500,000 people have been killed, mainly members of the Tutsi tribe, slain by government troops, Hutu militiamen, and mobs.

Hutu death squads went on the rampage after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6. They are apparently beyond the control of government forces, who witnesses say also participated in the killings.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali wants a first battalion of 500 Ghanaians and armoured personnel carriers to be flown in by U.S. aircraft to

secure Kigali Airport. The plan is that they would fan out from there.

But Washington wants the troops to deploy along safe border areas, a proposal Gen. Dallaire believe will not help most people.

Gen. Dallaire indicated that Kigali Airport, close to the northern government garrison town of Rubengeri, could be used as an alternative to Kigali for U.N. operations.

But Rubengeri is being attacked by rebels from the east. To reach the capital, U.N. traffic would have to cross battle lines twice, analysts pointed out.

U.N. officials were bound for Kigali to try to persuade the warring parties to cooperate with peacekeeping forces, but air traffic was unlikely to be allowed into the airport.

Both sides say they will welcome a humanitarian force but the RPF warned it would treat U.N. forces as the enemy if they tried to come between them and government troops.

## Bosnian factions fight for key supply roads

SARAJEVO (R) — Battles raged in Bosnia as the major powers met in Washington Friday to forge a common front and try to halt the two-year-old war in the former Yugoslav republic.

Muslim and Serb forces fought for control of roads vital for strategic advantage in the mountainous Bosnian terrain.

Fighting flared along a key Muslim supply line in the northeast, a U.N. military spokesman said, with artillery fire in the Olavo-Kladanj area straddling the road from Sarajevo to the northern Muslim stronghold of Tuzla.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said two people were wounded in Serb shelling of Muslim front lines and of Kladanj town itself.

Muslim commanders in the area reported an advance into Serb territory, allowing them to threaten a Serb supply line from Serbia to their political headquarters in Pale, 15 kilometres southeast of Sarajevo.

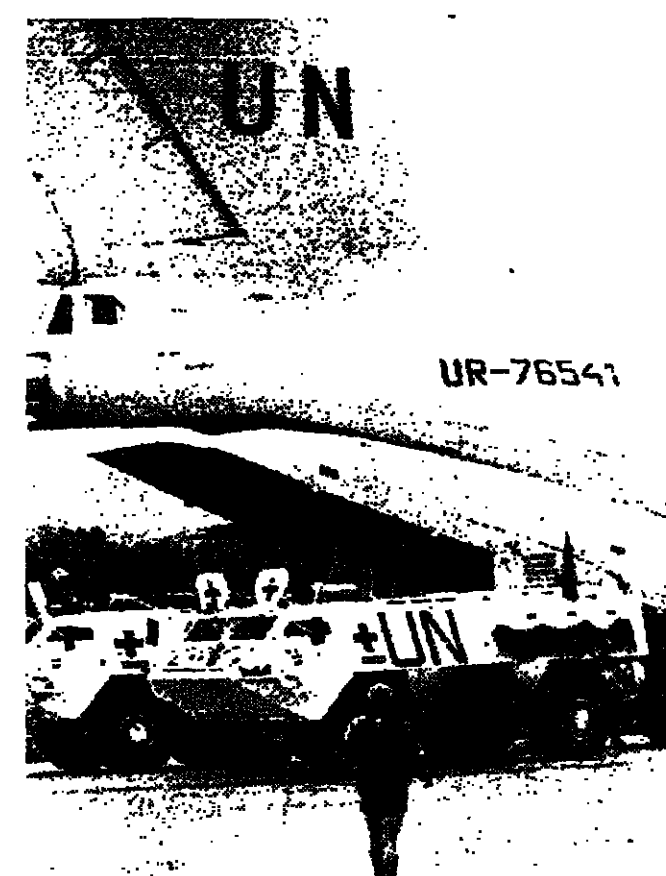
In central Bosnia, shelling was on the increase around the Muslim-held town of Bugojno.

"The town and the whole area had a lot of artillery and mortar fire" said U.N. spokesman Major Dacre Holloway. The town took between 40 and 50 hits in just 30 minutes late Thursday night, he added.

Sarajevo Radio said one person was killed and nine were wounded in the shelling by Bosnian Serb forces. The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported four children wounded in the area by Muslim shelling.

Another spokesman, Major Rob Annik, said the Muslim held town of Travnik, in central Bosnia, was hit by 27 artillery rounds Thursday, killing at least one civilian.

Nearby Zenica, also held by the Muslim-led Bosnian government, was hit by 20 shells, causing an unspecified number of casualties.



United Nations armoured vehicles stand next to a UNPROFOR Yugoslav 76 cargo plane which landed safely at Tuzla Airport, after a serious shelling incident on May 17 (AFP photo)

## Theory behind man's bipedal ancestors disputed

WASHINGTON (R) — Anthropologists challenged the long-standing theory that man's primate ancestors came down from trees and first walked upright as an evolutionary response to the disappearance of African rain forests. Researchers affiliated with Yale University's Beringo Paleontological Research Project have concluded that the Rift Valley in Kenya — where one of the earliest fossil specimens linked to man's bipedal ancestors was found — never experienced an abrupt change from rain forest to savanna. Evolutionary theorists from Charles Darwin onward have suggested that some drastic environmental shift may have been the driving force behind the dramatic evolutionary change that occurred when man's earliest bipedal ancestor, the Hominid, diverged from other African apes and first walked upright. After analysing carbon residue from ancient soils taken from outcroppings at 95 sites in an 800 square mile (2,070 sq. km) area within the valley, anthropologists have concluded that for the past 15 million years the valley has always been a mix of grasses and forest. "We don't see a shift in vegetation," John Kingston, a postdoctoral researcher at Yale, told Reuters. "There's no evidence for a dramatic shift at all." Mr. Kingston reported on his findings in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. Co-authors of the paper are Andrew Hill, a professor of anthropology at Yale who has discovered fossils of early Hominids in the Rift Valley, and Bruno Morino, a postdoctoral researcher at Harvard.

## Stolen antiques returned to museum

PHNOM PENH (R) — A cache of ancient Buddhist artifacts, dating back to the time of the Khmer empire, was returned to Cambodia's National Museum Friday after being seized by police from a government army smuggling gang. The 15 antiques, crafted in the 13th century when the empire was centred in area of the famous Angkor Wat Temple complex in Cambodia's northwest, included four stone lions, six stone and bronze statues, four giant stone heads and one other carving. Cambodian police seized the artifacts after stopping an army personnel carrier (APC) heading towards the Thai border on July 25, said Ouk Chan, vice-chief of the Department of Cultural Inheritance at the Ministry of Culture and Arts. "Police stopped the APC and after examination found the statue heads," one police official told Reuters. He said 11 army personnel were detained. "They (army) smuggle goods without paying tax because they have the guns and have protection from three star generals," said one former Cambodian border trader. Pitifully low wages often not paid for several months have led many members of the armed forces and security police to be involved in lucrative smuggling activities, one U.N. official said, asking not to be named.

## Don't like the teachers? Poison their tea

JAKARTA (R) — An 11-year-old Indonesian boy has been questioned by police after he allegedly poisoned tea prepared for his teachers, the official Antara News Agency said Monday. It quoted police as saying the boy, who was not identified, had admitted he added insecticide to the tea at the Ketoro Elementary School in Sragen, central Java. A servant noticed the tea was off-colour before anyone drank it. The boy, who had a record of misdemeanours at the school, is in the custody of his parents.

## Heat turned up on cockatoo egg poaching

LOS ANGELES (R) — Six people face federal charges for smuggling cockatoo eggs from the Australian outback to the United States, where the eggs were hatched and the birds sold for up to \$12,500, the Los Angeles Daily News reported. The six are believed part of a smuggling ring on three continents that made more than \$1 million in the last decade selling the birds at pet shops from California to New York. The eggs were put into special elasticised vests that kept them close to the wearer's body to ensure the incubation was not interrupted, a federal official said. The suspects then wore the vests in flights from Australia to Los Angeles.

## Washington — Hanoi inch toward swapping diplomats

WASHINGTON (R) — Vietnam and the United States have agreed in principle to send 10 to 20 diplomats to each other's capitals as the next step toward normal relations, a senior Vietnamese official said Thursday.

Le Van Bang, Vietnam's ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters he expected the diplomats to open projected "liaison" offices in Washington and Hanoi within the next three months.

"He said he had agreed on the staffing level of 10 to 20 diplomats at a meeting Wednesday with James Hall, director of the State Department's office of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia affairs."

Le Bang made his remarks at a business conference attended by the first big Vietnamese delegation to visit the United States since President Bill Clinton lifted a 19-year-old trade embargo on Feb. 3.

The two sides have been negotiating details of the offices since shortly after Mr. Clinton proposed them when he scrapped the trade ban. At issue has been their size, status and such matters as whether they will fly national flags. In separate but parallel talks, the two countries have been working out a comprehensive settlement of wartime financial claims.

The opening of the offices, which is subject to an exchange of protocols, would be an important step toward the normalisation of relations.

But the United States has linked the establishment of full diplomatic ties to continued Vietnamese cooperation in tracing the fate of the 2,233 U.S. servicemen missing in Indochina, 1,642 of them in Vietnam.

Mr. Le Bang said the liaison office in Washington would make it easier to do business with Vietnam by issuing visas and acting as a kind of clearing house for information on opportunities. It would not be a full-fledged embassy.

Asked whether he expected the exchange of diplomats within months or weeks, Mr. Le Bang replied: "I think months. One month, two months, three months."

The State Department had no immediate comment, but a department official said some details had not yet been settled. Among these is when the Vietnamese will be allowed to move into the former South Vietnamese embassy in Washington.

Mr. Le Bang said Hanoi eventually planned to move its diplomats into embassy, which he had just toured as part of preparations for moving to Washington, where he is expected to head the Vietnamese office.

The handover of the former South Vietnamese embassy is being worked out as part of a deal that would involve the simultaneous return of the former U.S. embassy in Saigon, now known as Ho Chi Minh City.

Communists seized the U.S. embassy moments after helicopters plucked fleeing Americans and Vietnamese from its roof in April 1975.

Mr. Le Bang said he expected the liaison offices initially to be housed in temporary premises in Washington and Hanoi.

## Malawi's UDF seen short of majority assembly vote

BLANTYRE, Malawi (R) — The opposition United Democratic Front (UDF) has emerged as the biggest parliamentary party in Malawi's landmark elections but appears short of an outright majority, unofficial results showed Friday.

With virtually all results of Tuesday's elections in hand, Bakili Muluzi's UDF had about 85 seats, the ruling Malawi Congress Party (MCP) between 56 and 57 seats and the Alliance For Democracy (AFORD) 35. There are 177 assembly seats.

Election officials said there was some dispute with results from the southern district of Nsanje, where the UDF was initially reported to have won and then lost two seats.

A high-level panel from Malawi's Electoral Commission conducting the ballot had been sent there early Friday to

investigate, they said.

One of the candidates standing in the Nsanje district is the MCP's Vice-President and Home Affairs Minister Gwanda Chakumbwa.

The commission said it hoped to announce most if not all the results of the polls, Malawi's first pluralist elections in 30 years of President Kamuzu Banda's one-party rule, Friday afternoon.

Mr. Muluzi, 51 and a former MCP official, trounced Mr. Banda, the head of the MCP, in the parallel presidential. Final official results of this poll are also outstanding but Mr. Muluzi will be sworn in Saturday.

Mr. Muluzi said Thursday he would form a coalition government with AFORD of veteran trade unionist Chakufwa Chikwanda should the UDF fail to get a parliamentary majority.

## U.K. reply puts pressure on IRA

LONDON (R) — Britain, warning the IRA to stop playing for time, Friday piled pressure on the guerrillas to end their violence and join talks on a political settlement in Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland Minister Michael Ancram told Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, that the answers it got Thursday to demands for clarification of an Anglo-Irish peace plan would be the British government's final word on the matter.

"There can be no more playing for time," Mr. Ancram told BBC Radio. "It's time to draw a line in the sand."

He said he intended to intensify consultations with Northern Ireland's constitutional parties to find the path to a settlement of a conflict that has claimed more than 3,000 lives in the province in the past 25 years.

The people of Northern Ireland were fed up with violence and were looking to politicians to keep up the momentum for peace.

Mr. Ancram said Sinn Fein could have a seat at the negotiating table if the Irish Republican Army (IRA) renounced violence as a means of achieving its goal of ousting British from Northern Ireland.

but he said Britain would not sit idly by while Sinn Fein considered the replies to the 20 questions it had posed about the Downing Street Declaration signed on Dec. 15 by Prime Minister John Major and Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds.

Sinn Fein is not expected to give its response until after European elections on June 9.

"There's no question of waiting for anything," Mr. Ancram, who has helped shape the delicate peace process, said. "We've made it clear that no party or organisation can exercise a veto on the process of dialogue just by staying out."

Moderate Republican politician John Hume, who paved the way for the Downing Street Declaration with his own second talks with Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams, added to the pressure by saying he hoped Sinn Fein would respond quickly and positively.

## Australian opposition leader declares job vacant

SYDNEY (AFP) — Australia's embattled opposition leader John Hewson threw down the gauntlet to his party critics Friday, announcing a ballot for his own job — for which he said he expects to be the favourite.

Ending days of frenzied speculation about his future, he told a media conference here he had called a special party meeting for 2:30 p.m. (0430 GMT) Monday, and had declared all leadership position vacant.

"I think I will win quite well," said the former economics professor who as leader of the Liberal Party also heads the conservative coalition opposition in which the rural-based National Party is junior partner.

"I will be returned to the leadership of the Liberal Party with a renewed mandate — and then I will make some changes," he added.

His announcement follows an accusation by Mr. Hewson Thursday that elements of the Liberal Party — and the media

— were trying to destabilise him.

In a clear reference to Mr. Hewson's leadership, former Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser said Tuesday that a few people needed "to be weeded out" to revive party fortunes.

"The Liberal Party is at the moment further away from winning elections than it was in 1945 when Robert Menzies founded the party," Mr. Fraser said.

Mr. Hewson, 47, vowed the following day that he was "bloody well never going to give up" the leadership.

Elected Liberal leader in 1990, Mr. Hewson was reelected after leading the coalition to disastrous defeat in a so-called unlovable election in March 1993 while Australia was still mired in the impact of its worst recession for 60 years.

He told reporters Friday it was clear the speculation surrounding the leadership of the party had gained such momentum that the issue needed to be resolved as soon as possible.

## Political crisis deepens in Azerbaijan over Karabakh

BAKU (R) — A political crisis in Azerbaijan deepened Thursday after the opposition marshalled resistance to a peace deal with Armenia that could bring Russian forces back on to Azeri soil.

A Russian-brokered plan to end the undeclared war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh would bring several hundred Russian troops into Azerbaijan to police a ceasefire.

A total of 22 opposition parties launched a movement of national resistance with the aim of blocking "introduction of any troops under any flag, be they CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) or Russia."

An appeal to the people from the group, which included the nationalist Popular Front, warned that the introduction of such troops represented "an external threat" to the country.

Azerbaijan is the only member of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with no Russian troops stationed on its territory.

Azerbaijan refused to sign the deal at talks in Moscow earlier this week and President Heydar Aliyev has not made it clear whether he fully backs the plan or not.

But the opposition clearly fears Mr. Aliyev will finally reach the agreement to end the six-year-long bloody conflict which constantly threatens the internal stability of his volatile country.

Karabakh technically belongs to Azerbaijan but ethnic Armenians are now military masters of the mountainous territory and have declared a separate republic. They have also occupied large areas of southern Azerbaijan.

The war has cost several thousands of lives, created more than one million refugees, mostly Azeris, and drained the economies of both Transcaucasian states.

The newly-formed movement said it planned to stage a peaceful rally in Baku Saturday against the government's policy on Karabakh.

A parliamentary crisis blew up over the issue Wednesday when 15 deputies walked out of parliament after the speaker had refused to allow discussion of the proposed peace deal.

The walkout meant the parliament fell short of a quorum.

Tofik Gasimov, chairman of the Standing Committee on State Reorganisation, described the situation as "a class-struggle parliamentary crisis."

## D-Day worries: Age, microlights and bad weather

RENNES, France (R) — The French generals in charge of the D-Day 50th anniversary said they had three main worries: The weather, uninvited ultra-light aircraft and the fragile health of thousands of elderly veterans.

The generals presented security plans for the June 5-6 ceremonies along Normandy's beaches to be attended by heads of state and government from 14 nations and 100,000 people including 35,000 veterans of the 1944 allied landing.

Gendarmerie General Jacques Riquet voiced concern that accidents among veterans could spoil the party.

"These people are up to 98 years old. Some may break a hip getting off the bus, others may have a heart attack from the emotion of meeting old friends," he told reporters.

Not to mention 37 U.S. veteran paratroopers aged 67 to 82 who plan to parachute over the village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise to mark the anniversary of their war drop.

Military sources said doctors

estimated that up to 50 veterans could die during the ceremonies in a worst-case scenario. They said all local hospitals were setting beds aside in specialised wings for elderly people.

Military authorities were going to great lengths to ensure that the celebrations would be a success, including setting up an army "cheque-book" squad ready to immediately compensate civilians for any damage caused by military equipment.

Some 50,000 French and foreign soldiers will perform and provide security during the two-day celebrations, turning Normandy into a fortress.

Air Force General Jean-Michel Nicolas told reporters any unauthorised aircraft will be banned from a 80-kilometre long area over the beaches, patrolled by Mirage 2000 fighters refuelled in flight and watched by an AWACS radar plane.

Intruders defying orders to turn back will face warning shots and, if needed, destruction.

Gen. Nicolas said. He said intruders had no chance of slipping undetected through the formidable electronic system backed by French and foreign navy ships cruising offshore, including the naval group of U.S. aircraft carrier USS George Washington.

The only exception might be a low-flying ultralight aircraft manned by a suicide terrorist or a radio-controlled model leaving no trace on radar screens, Gen. Nicolas said.

But these would have to evade a network of army spotter planes on the ground and would be shot down by marksmen on helicopters.

Gen. Nicolas said there was an enemy he could not beat: Poor weather like that which plagued the 1944 landing, blowing paratroopers off course and causing many soldiers to drown.

Fog grounding helicopters would wreak havoc in the tight schedule of the heads of state criss-crossing the region in a

host of international, binational or national ceremonies.

"Anyone who could not fly would have to walk," Gen. Nicolas said, adding that many ceremonies would have to be cancelled.

Gendarmerie General Jacques Riquet, who will head 7,000 paramilitary gendarmes directing traffic and ensuring no sniper takes a potshot at a leader, said all roads between the coast and the main N13 highway would be closed to unauthorised vehicles.

"Please tell your readers they'd better watch television at home rather than try to come," he told reporters.

Veterans who had requested accreditation would be allowed to the beaches on buses.

Gen. Riquet's main worry was less security than small incidents — unaccredited veterans trying to force their way, broken down buses or protests by disgruntled dairy farmers which would block the narrow roads leading to the site of a major ceremony.



## Brilliant AC Milan humiliate Barcelona in European Cup

ATHENS (AFP) — AC Milan won the European Champions Cup for the third time in six years with a stunning 4-0 triumph over Barcelona here late Wednesday.

The Spanish champions were ruthlessly exposed by a Milan performance that was brilliantly orchestrated by their Montenegrin forward Dejan Savicevic.

The Montenegrin carved the Barcelona defence apart to create the crucial opening goal for Daniele Massaro, had a hand in Massaro's second just before the break and then scored a stunning third two minutes after the restart.

After robbing Josep Guardiola on the right touchline, Savicevic spotted Andoni Zubizarreta off his line and audaciously lobbed him from the corner of the penalty area to kill the match as a contest.

Marcel Desailly, a member of the Olympique Marseille team that beat Milan 1-0 in last year's final, rounded off a superb performance by breaking through the Spaniards back four in the 54th minute and placing a right foot wide of Zubizarreta.

Desailly, who marked Marco Van Basten out of last year's final, was again the key to victory with his work at the heart of the Milan midfield.

By smothering their opponents in the middle of the park Fabio Capello's side cut off the supply to Barcelona's forwards Hristo Stoichkov and Romario.

The deadly duo barely threatened all night despite the absence of Milan's international central defenders Franco

Baresi and Alessandro Costacurta, both ruled out of the match by suspension.

Barcelona's spectacular performances in getting to the final had led many to anticipate a wave after wave of Catalan raids on the Milanese goal.

But it was the Italians who took a grip on the game right from the start — Savicevic, who won a European Cup medal with Red Star Belgrade in 1991, skipping past Miguel Angel Nadal with as early as the sixth minute.

Stoichkov created Barcelona's only early chance with a long range shot in the seventh minute but two minutes later Milan were unlucky not to go ahead. Christian Panucci's headed goal was ruled out because Daniele Massaro was judged to be interfering with play in an offside position.

Milan's enterprise finally bore fruit in the 22nd minute when Guardiola failed to clear on the left, giving Savicevic the chance to break into the box.

The Montenegrin waltzed past Nadal once more and flicked the ball across goal to give Massaro an easy tap-in at the far post.

Massaro, who missed a hatful of chances in last year's final, struck his second in first half injury time — this time with a left foot drive from just behind the penalty spot at the end of a sweeping move out of defence.

Zvonimir Boban swept the ball wide to Roberto Donadoni on the left flank. His busy run took him round the back of the defence and with the Barcelona defenders looking for Savicevic, his pass with the

outsides of the foot perfectly picked out Massaro.

Barcelona looked willing for a second-half battle but Guardiola's blunder and Savicevic's brilliant strike proved a knock-out punch.

From then on they were a feeble shadow of their normal selves and they could easily have become the first side to lose a European Cup final by five goals.

Just seconds before Desailly's goal, Savicevic's stabbed shot came back off the inside of the post and the Barcelona defence was still trying to regain its composure when the Frenchman burst through to score.

Milan's fifth European Cup triumph followed previous victories in Europe's premier competition in 1963, 1969, 1989 and 1990.

It was only the third time any team had won the final by four goals. The last time it happened was in 1989 when Milan beat Steau Bucharest 4-0.

9 Barcelona players in World Cup squad

Meanwhile, Spanish coach Javier Clemente included nine Barcelona players in his squad for next month's World Cup finals announced Thursday.

The players from the Spanish champions provide the core of the 22-man squad but many fans will be disappointed there is no place for veteran midfielder Michel Gonzalez who played in the last two World Cup finals.

The coach said he had considered Michel as well as Atletico Madrid defender Juan



AC Milan's captain Mauro Tassotti (left) and coach Fabio Capello (right) both wore as they exit the airplane carrying their team to Milan Thursday (AFP photo)

Manuel Lopez. "He's a great man who creates harmony within the team and lives for the Spanish side but my plan for the World Cup did not include him," Clemente said at a news conference.

Michel, capped 65 times, played in Mexico in 1985 and Italy in 1990 but has not appeared in the national side since October 1992.

Clemente was obviously influenced in his selection by Barcelona's crushing 4-0 defeat

by AC Milan in the European Cup final Wednesday.

"I think it was a triumph for Spanish football that they made it to the final," he said. Spain face South Korea in Dallas in their first match June 17, the opening day of the finals.

"It will be a complicated match, not only because it's the first match. Korea do not play to win, they play to prevent you from playing and that could be dangerous," Clemente said.

## World Cup places battle set to begin

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Newcastle sign U.S. goalkeeper Friedel

LONDON (R) — English premier division soccer club Newcastle United said Friday they had signed American national goalkeeper Brad Friedel for more than £250,000 (\$377,000). United Manager Kevin Keegan said: "We have decided that the club needs three quality goalkeepers with the number of games we will be playing next season." Friedel, who turned 23 this week, has 21 international caps and has been included in the home squad for next month's World Cup finals in the United States.

#### Schwarz quits Benfica for Arsenal

LISBON (R) — Benfica's Swedish international midfielder Hans Schwarz will transfer to England's Arsenal for a fee of 450 million escudos (\$2.6 million), state television RTP said Thursday. RTP said Schwarz, 25, had agreed to play for Arsenal for three years. Benfica Vice-President Gaspar Ramos told RTP that Benfica had an understanding with Schwarz, who has played for the Lisbon club since 1990, that he could leave at the end of this season. "We will fulfill this verbal agreement, but obviously we will only do so if there are conditions that are attractive for the club," he said.

#### Former Tour de France winner commits suicide, say police

PARIS (R) — Luis Ocaña, Spanish winner of the Tour de France in 1973, committed suicide Thursday, police said. Ocaña, 45, who had been suffering from cancer for several years, shot himself in his home in Caupenne D'Armagne in southern France. He leaves a wife and two children. Ocaña was a great rival of Belgian star Eddy Merckx in the early 1970s. A mountain specialist, he won the Tour of Spain in 1970 and the Tour de France three years later. "He was a great friend and a very honest person," said Frenchman Bernard Thevenet. Tour de France winner in 1975 and 1977. "What will stay with me is the way he always kept fighting." Thevenet told French radio. "He never gave up."

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF AND TAMAR HIRSH

#### MAKE YOUR OPPONENT GUESS

Neither vulnerable North deals. NORTH: ♠ K J 4, ♥ A Q J, ♦ A K Q J, ♣ A K Q J. WEST: ♠ 7 5 3 2, ♥ 8 7 6, ♦ 10 9 8, ♣ 6 5. SOUTH: ♠ A J 8, ♥ A Q 10, ♦ K Q 6, ♣ 10 8 7. The bidding: North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass 4 NT Pass.

Opening lead: Nine of Clubs. It is not even experts when faced with a puzzle like this. Therefore, if you can prevent your opponent with an option, your luck will be remarkably. This hand, from a team match, illustrates our point. Both North-South pairs reached a no trump in quick time. On the diamond suit, South showed the equivalent of a double, and so

ZURICH (Agencies) — FIFA Friday Kickstarted a battle over the allocation of new World Cup places when it endorsed a proposal to increase the finals to 32 teams from 1998.

FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter, who made the expected announcement that this summer's finals in the United States would be the last with 24 teams, said no decision on allocation of the extra places will be made until after this year's final July 17.

But Blatter indicated earlier this week that he would be backing a formula based on results at this summer's finals and UEFA, the European football union, has already made a firm proposal to that effect.

UEFA want Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean/North American region known as CONCACAF to be given one extra place each and the other four to go to the regions providing the semi-finals this summer.

In the last two tournaments Europe had three semi-finalists, with Argentina representing South America, and in 1982 all four semi-finalists were from Europe. As Europe already has 13 of the 24 places this proposal is likely to run into opposition and it puts UEFA on a collision course with the African confederation (CAF), which said last month it would expect at least two, if not three, of the extra places.

Only one African team, Cameroon in 1990, has ever reached the quarter-finals of the competition. Organisers of the 1998 finals in France have given their backing to the proposed increase to 32 teams.

The World Cup was increased from 16 to 24 teams at Spain in 1982.

#### Kickoff times unchanged

Meanwhile, a FIFA spokesman said although the World Cup organisers were warned of the dangers of playing soccer in the hot Florida sun, they were not asked to change the midday kickoff times for matches in Orlando.

Spokesman Andreas Herren said Belgian doctor Michel D'hooche, who had promised

to press for matches to be played in the evening, raised the subject at a meeting of FIFA's World Cup organising committee.

"He brought the issue up, but he said he was well aware that no changes were possible," Herren said.

D'hooche, head of the International Football Federation's medical committee, warned earlier this week that heat could be a problem for all teams playing in the finals and said he would ask for later kickoffs.

The first game in Orlando is June 19 between Belgium and Morocco.

## Cameroon's federation broke before finals

YAOUNDE (R) — Cameroon's soccer federation Fecafoot has no money to pay players, less than a month before the start of the World Cup finals.

Fecafoot Chairman Maha Daher said Thursday he had to turn away the team's French coach, Henry Michel.

Michel arrived in Yaounde Tuesday hoping to collect unpaid bonuses for the 27 "indomitable lions" training in France.

"I sent him to the prime minister. We have no money," Daher said in Fecafoot's temporary headquarters — the living room of his house.

He moved there because Fecafoot's electricity, water and telephones were cut off three weeks ago for unpaid bills.

Michel will announce the final selection of 22 players who will defend Cameroon's colours in the United States at the latest June 3, Daher said.

But the list could be known May 26 when the indomitable lions are to leave France for

the French West Indies where they are due to play friendlies against Guadeloupe and Martinique.

The big mystery is whether veteran striker Roger Milla, a national hero who turned 42 Friday, will make the final squad. Many experts say he is over the hill but Michel is under intense political pressure to select him.

A chaotic power struggle is disrupting Cameroon's preparations four years after they set an African record by reaching the quarter-finals in the Italian World Cup.

With a financial bonanza from sponsorship at stake, seven rival groups are involved in the team's build-up.

Some of the groups have organised warm-up matches which were subsequently postponed by the others. Only a tour of the Far East and Greece has so far taken place as scheduled.

The Michel and Owona Noah partnership is blocking a Canadian invitation to play against Belgium in Canada.

## Pacers reach the finals of NBA's Eastern Conference

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — The peaking Indiana Pacers routed the top-seeded Atlanta Hawks 98-79 on Thursday to reach the NBA Eastern Conference finals while both western semifinals were sent into deciding seventh games.

The never-say-die Denver Nuggets staved off elimination for a record sixth time in this year's playoffs by beating the Utah Jazz 94-91 to even their series at three games apiece.

The Phoenix Suns stayed alive by beating the Houston Rockets 103-89 to also knot their western semifinals at 3-3.

At Indiana, Rick Smith scored 11 of his 27 points in the decisive third quarter to lead the fifth-seeded Pacers to their first NBA conference finals ever.

"He was unstoppable," Pacers coach Larry Brown said of Smith. "He didn't worry about double teams. He just went up and shot the ball."

Reggie Miller added 18 points and Derrick McKey had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the fifth-seeded Pacers, who won their best-of-seven semifinals four games to two.

"I feel like our chances are as good as anybody's," McKey said. "The way we are playing now, we could beat anybody and we seem to be getting better and better."

Indiana, which swept the Orlando Magic in the opening round, to 7-2 in this year's playoffs, including a perfect 4-0 home record.

The Pacers, who captured three American National Basketball Association titles but since entering the NBA in 1976 had won just 4-of-21 NBA playoff games prior to this season, now await the winner of the New York-Chicago semifinals.

"I want New York," said Miller. "They're supposed to be the team supposed to win it all and come out of the east."

He added: "Anything can happen in the playoffs. You throw your regular-season record out." Chicago was 4-1 against Indiana in the regular season. New York was 4-0.

Mookie Blaylock scored 23 points and Danny Manning had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta.

The Pacers nursed a 38-35 lead at the half before blowing the game open in the third quarter, outscoring Atlanta 34-16. They shot a sizzling 65 per cent in the period (13-of-20) while the Hawks were a dismal 33 per cent (5-of-15).

In Denver, Dikembe Mutombo scored 23 points, including two key free throws with 29.3 seconds remaining, to lead the Nuggets past Utah and set in NBA record for most consecutive victories when facing elimination, winning for the sixth straight time when a loss would have ended their season.

The NBA's youngest team, which shocked top-seeded Seattle in the first round as the first number eight seed to knock off a top seed, also

became just the second team in NBA playoff history to force a seventh game after losing the first three.

In 1951, New York dropped three to the Rochester Royals, then won three before losing game seven of the finals.

The Jazz led by as many as 10 points in the third quarter, but Denver held them to just one field goal over a 10:40 span from late in the third quarter until late in the fourth to win within a point, and the Jazz went back and forth down the stretch.

The Jazz had chances to win the game after Mutombo's throw, but John Stockton missed a 3-pointer with 1:05 left, and after Reggie Miller missed a pair of free throws, Jeff Hornacek missed another three.

In Phoenix, A.C. Green scored 12 of his 22 points during a decisive third-quarter run as the Suns forced a seventh-game showdown in Houston on Saturday.

Kevin Johnson had 28 points and 13 assists to pace the Suns, who had five players in double figures. Green was 9-of-18 from the field and added 18 rebounds. Charles Barkley had 18 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists. Joe Kleine added 15 points and Danny Ainge scored 13.

Hakeem Olajuwon had 23 points for the Rockets, who are trying to reach the conference finals for the first time since 1986.

## No easy farewell for Navratilova

PARIS (AFP) — Martina Navratilova, who at 37 will retire at the end of this year, was dealt no favours Friday at the draw for next week's French Open tennis championships at the Roland Garros Stadium.

The fourth-ranked left-handed American, dreaming to repeat her 1982 and 1984 success on the surface least suited to her aggressive game, found herself drawn into an over-heavy, top-half of the women's singles draw and on course for a semi-final showdown with defending champion Steffi Graf.

Navratilova, who also has Japan's Kimiko Date in her quarter of the draw as well as dangerous home hope Mary Pierce, opens her 12th and final campaign on the red clay courts of the newly-enlarged stadium to the west of Paris, against Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands.

But she could then find herself under pressure as early as the second round when she is expected to face the much-improved Sabine Apellmans of Belgium.

But if Navratilova's road to the last four is fraught with danger, Graf will also need to be vigilant.

The 24-year-old German player, who like Pete Sampras in the men's singles is bidding for an out-of-sequence "Grand Slam" by winning her fourth consecutive major title, looks set for a quarter-final showdown against old rival Gabriela Sabatini. But first she will have to beat the player she faced in the 1993 — Mary Joe Fernandez.

Other dangerous players in her quarter include Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan, the experienced Helena Sukova and Croatian teenager Iva Majoli.

Former world number-one Tracy Austin, who played her last Grand Slam tournament in Paris eleven years ago, is also in the top-half of the draw.

## Prosecutors to investigate skier Ulrike Maier death

BONN (R) — German prosecutors are set to open an investigation for negligence in connection with the death of Austrian skier Ulrike Maier in a World Cup race in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the news agency SID said Thursday.

The Munich prosecutor's office could not be reached for comment, but SID said the investigation would be directed against the International Ski Federation's (FIS) race directors, Kurt Hoch of Austria and Jan Tschanner of Switzerland.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhillier Brian Stemmler sustained serious injuries in a crash five years ago in Kitzbuehel's classic Hahnenkamm downhill.

Maier broke her neck in the crash.

Sid said Hoch and Tschanner would have up to three weeks to respond in writing to the prosecutors.

Maier's family have said they want to sue the FIS for compensation and for maintenance payments for Maier's four-year-old daughter Melina.

Race organisers have been successfully sued for negligence once in connection with a crash.

An Austrian court ruled that a technical director was legally responsible for safety faults after Canadian downhill



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Geagea linked to church bombing

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's chief prosecutor accused former warlord Samir Geagea Friday of links to a February church bombing that killed 11 worshippers, judicial sources said. They said prosecutor Munir Owaidat decided to charge Dr. Geagea after reading details of his questioning by investigating Judge Joseph Freiha. Dr. Geagea, the chief of the banned Lebanese Forces (LF) group, is held for alleged links to the 1990 assassination of a Christian rival. About 15 other LF members, including Dr. Geagea's right hand man Fouad Malek, are held in connection with the Feb. 27 bombing and murder of Christian leader Dani Chamoun, wife and two sons. The Lebanese government banned the LF, the largest Christian militia during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war, in March after arresting Mr. Malek and a number of followers in connection with the church blast. Dr. Geagea was arrested in April after investigations into the bombing led to alleged links between him and the murder of the Chamouns. He has vehemently denied links to either crime.

## 3 held in U.S. over tourist shooting

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (R) — Three men matching the description of the suspects who brutally gunned down a German couple in the southern California mountains were detained for questioning by state police Thursday night, officials said. The men were stopped by highway patrol troopers outside Bakersfield, 140 miles (225 km) northwest of the popular hiking area where Monday's attack left an elderly woman dead and her husband critically wounded, said deputy Mark Lohman of the Riverside County Sheriff's Department. "We're following up on one of many leads. We have not made any arrests. They are detained for questioning," Deputy Lohman said. He said the three men and the green car they were driving bore similarities to descriptions released by authorities earlier Thursday at a news conference in Riverside. In their most detailed recounting of the attack yet, officials said the two tourists were ambushed at a scenic roadside lookout near the town of Idyllwild in the San Bernardino Mountains southeast of Los Angeles.

## Omar Sharif hospitalised

ANTIBES, France (AFP) — Egyptian-born film actor Omar Sharif, 62, was taken to hospital here after suffering heart failure but was not in a serious condition, hospital officials said Friday. Sharif fell ill in his hotel room at the end of a bridge tournament in Juan-les-Pins on the French Riviera Thursday. He is a leading player on the international bridge circuit. The hospital said he had not lost consciousness and that there was nothing serious about his condition. Doctors said he might be discharged later Friday. Sharif starred in such films as *Doctor Zhivago* and *Funny Girl*.

## Former Japan foreign minister dies

TOKYO (AFP) — Former Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito, a veteran member of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), died of pneumonia at his Tokyo home Friday morning, party officials said. He was 80. The former lower house legislator was seen as a symbol of political reformists at the LDP, which lost the majority in lower house general elections last year following a series of financial scandals. He will also be remembered for pursuing friendship between Japan and China. Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed his condolences, describing him as a "selfless patriot." Mr. Ito served as chief cabinet secretary in 1979-1980 under then Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira. After the sudden death of Mr. Ohira in June 1980, he served as acting prime minister until July 1980. He then became foreign minister in 1980-1981 under prime minister Zenko Suzuki. After Noboru Takeshita resigned as prime minister in 1989 to take responsibility for his alleged involvement in the Recruit Co. stock-for-favors scandal, LDP offered Mr. Ito the post of premier because of his clean image, but he turned it down.

## Estonian premier sacks minister

MOSCOW (R) — Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar sacked his Defence Minister Indrek Kanik and asked for a vote of confidence from his party, the Estonian Foreign Ministry said. Mr. Laar, elected in the former Soviet Republic's first free elections in 1992, asked Mr. Kanik to resign after a disagreement within the cabinet. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mari-Anni Rikken said by telephone from Tallinn. Justice Minister Kaido Kama had also said he would quit and take five other ministers with him but this had not yet happened and the centre-right coalition government was still in place, she said. An official in Mr. Laar's office said Mr. Kama had handed in his resignation. "Kanik wanted the government to resign. He wanted a change of prime minister," Ms. Rikken said. Mr. Laar, Mr. Kanik and Mr. Kama are all members of the Fatherland Party and the prime minister has asked for a vote of confidence in his leadership at a party meeting, probably in June. Mr. Laar won the party's immediate backing at a news conference in Tallinn Thursday. "It came out very clearly that no one supports changing the government," Ms. Rikken said.

## Oil gushes on Russian island after leak

MOSCOW (R) — A pipeline failure Friday in Russia's far eastern Sakhalin Island let 60 tonnes of oil gush out but there was no environmental harm, ITAR-TASS news agency said. The oil spilled out of the pipeline in Sakhalin's Pervomayskoye region, a local civil defence spokesman said. Some 54 tonnes of oil was collected by military personnel dispatched to the site, TASS said.

## Russian police kill gunmen, free hostages

MOSCOW (R) — Russian special forces in an armoured vehicle smashed their way into a Moscow currency exchange Thursday night killing two gunmen and freeing two women hostages. Interior Ministry crack troops waited until night before using an armoured personnel carrier to batter their way into the building on Frunze Embankment on the Moscow River to end a six-and-a-half hour siege. Three gunmen snatched the hostages after a bungled robbery attempt and in the following clash a policeman was shot dead. The gunmen later demanded \$1 million to release their captives. The Interior Ministry Omon forces first fired tear gas before charging the building after relatives of the gunmen had failed to persuade them to surrender. The third gunman was arrested. Police sources first said there were three hostages but later discovered there were only two.

## U.S. may cut troops in Europe

WASHINGTON (R) — The House of Representatives voted to withdraw up to 75,000 U.S. troops from Europe if U.S. allies there do not pay 75 per cent of the forces' costs by 1998, excluding salaries. The House wrote the proposal into \$263 billion defence authorisation bill for next year by a vote of 268 to 144. The effort to force Europe to pay the large share of the U.S. troops' cost would have to be approved by the Senate and signed by President Bill Clinton to become law. Assistant House Democratic leader David Bonior of Minnesota argued that Japan agreed to pay a large share of the cost of U.S. troops stationed in that country when the House passed a similar proposal and said the House should now put the same pressure on Europe. "We're saying it is time for European allies to pay their fair share too," he said.

## Bulgarian cabinet survives vote

SOFIA (R) — The Bulgarian government narrowly survived its sixth no confidence vote after the opposition failed to muster enough votes to topple it. Only 25 deputies voted for the non-party government, but the 96 who voted against it fell short of the 121 needed for the motion to be carried. One vote was declared invalid. The announcement of the results of the secret ballot caused uproar in the chamber.

## Jacquelin Kennedy Onassis dies

NEW YORK (R) — Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, widow of President John F. Kennedy and an enduring American symbol of elegance and strength, died with her children at her side after a battle with cancer. She was 64. She was as close to royalty as one can be in a democratic nation and was best remembered for the poignant moment when she cradled the head of the dying president in her hands after he was shot and killed on a November day in Dallas 30 years ago.

A spokeswoman said the former first lady died at her New York home at 10:15 p.m. EDT (0215) after a four-month fight with lymphoma, which had raced through her body despite chemotherapy and radiation treatments.

"She was sleeping. I don't know if she was asleep or in a coma," she kind of slipped away," said the spokeswoman, Nancy Tuckerman.

Ms. Onassis was given the Catholic rites for the dying earlier in the day.

At her bedside were children Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg and John F. Kennedy Jr. as well as her long-time companion Maurice Tempelsman, Ms. Tuckerman said.

She said that nothing has been decided about funeral arrangements. "It all happened rather quickly."

One option is for Ms. Onassis to be buried next to Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington D.C., where his grave is marked by the eternal flame.

A native of Long Island, New York, Ms. Onassis first entered the spotlight when she married then-Senator Kennedy in 1953. His death in 1963 was one of several tragedies in her life.

She had lost one of her three children soon after birth and suffered a miscarriage and a

stillborn birth.

Her brother-in-law and friend Robert Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 while campaigning for the presidency.

After the tragedy of President Kennedy's murder and the death of her second husband, shipping tycoon Aristotle Onassis, she entered the New York publishing world and moved quietly in high social circles.

Even as she tried to lead a private life, she had often been hounded by press photographers but almost always was written about in glowing terms.

The sudden worsening in her condition came as a surprise to a nation that remained transfixed by her activities decades after she was in the public arena as first lady, personifying an era heralded as an American camelot for its vitality and style.

"She presented the best in American culture. She created a world impression second to none. She was a woman of great distinction, taste and privacy," said Oleg Cassini, designer and personal friend of many years.

Senator Edward Kennedy, her brother-in-law who visited her twice in the past two days, said in a statement that "Jackie was part of our family and part of our hearts for 40 wonderful and unforgettable years and she will never really leave us."

President Bill Clinton said that "more than any other woman of her time, she captivated our nation and the world with her intelligence, elegance and grace."

Lady Bird Johnson, widow of the president who took office after John F. Kennedy's death, said that Ms. Onassis was an "image of beauty and romance."



Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, shown with John F. Kennedy in a photo dated April 1963, has died of cancer complications at the age of 64 at her home in New York (AFP photo)

"In times of hope, she captured our hearts. In tragedy, her courage helped save a nation's grief," she said in a statement issued from her Austin office.

Hundreds gathered outside her Fifth Avenue apartment building, New York's most elegant neighbourhood. Some brought flowers, others cards, to express their admiration.

"I just came to say that I love you and pay my respects," said Carol Dagnao from Virginia.

Doctors at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Centre had treated Ms. Onassis with radiation and chemother-

apy since January, when she was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system.

The disease is normally considered treatable but in some cases it moves quickly, with fatal results.

Ms. Tuckerman said doctors decided that further treatment was useless.

"The disease progressed to a point where there was no more they could do. They reached a point whereby she could either remain in the hospital or go home."

"She chose to go home," she said.

## Crimean parliament raises stakes in tussle with Kiev

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (Agencies) — The Crimean parliament raised the stakes in a dispute with Ukrainian authorities Friday, voting to restore a 1992 constitution loosening its ties with the rest of the former Soviet republic.

Deputies in the autonomous region voted 69-2 to reintroduce the constitution, which offers a new legal basis for relations with Ukraine, separate Crimean "citizenship" and includes a local militia. Crimean recruits would serve in the peninsula.

The measures enraged Ukrainian authorities. The country's acting prime minister said he favoured Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk imposing direct rule on Crimea.

Kiev has been locked in a battle to maintain its authority over the region, whose majority ethnic Russian population voted heavily for closer links with Moscow in a referendum in March.

Most speakers in the parliamentary debate said Ukraine was trying to impose its will on Crimea. Only a handful pleaded against adopting the constitution, warning of ethnic bloodshed as in Nagorno-Karabakh and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

But parliament Chairman Sergei Tsekov denied that introducing the old constitution was tantamount to a declaration of independence by Crimea, summer playground of Kremlin leaders during the Soviet era.

"The 1992 constitution means only putting our relations with Ukraine on a new basis to conduct economic change. No more, no less," he told Reuters after the vote. "Crimea is part of Ukraine and Ukraine has nothing to fear."

Other deputies complained about Ukraine's attitude.

"In Kiev we are treated like rabble. Slavery may be only a state of mind or lifestyle, but it is not for us," said Sergei Nikulin, adviser to pro-Russian Crimean President Yuri Meshkov.

"How can we operate when some old guy in Kiev is trying to tell me how to run my own kitchen," said Deputy Natalya Grudina.

Veteran Russian nationalist Alexander Kruglov told the chamber that 8,000 Russian Cossacks were ready to flood into Crimea if Kiev took military action against it. Only the parliament's two Communists voted against the constitution. Members of the Crimean Tatar minority, deported from Stalin's Central Asia by Josef Stalin 50 years ago, refused to vote.

In Kiev, Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilsky said he would support any move for direct presidential rule. "I am certain

parliament would back such a measure," he said.

A top adviser to Mr. Kravchuk, Mykola Mikhalchenko, said Crimea had "crossed the line" by threatening Ukraine's borders. But he predicted there would be no bloodshed.

Crimean leaders abandoned the 1992 constitution when Mr. Kravchuk offered them broad autonomy in the initial months after Ukraine won independence from the Soviet Union.

But pro-Russian sentiment flourished as Ukraine's economy collapsed. Poverty hit Crimean pensioners hard and many yearned for the relative prosperity of post-Soviet Russia.

Crimea became a Russian possession in 1783 and stayed under Moscow's control through the Soviet era until 1954 when it was given to Ukraine as a "gift." But the transfer had little significance in the highly centralised Soviet political order.

Mr. Meshkov was elected as Crimea's president in January on a platform of returning it to Russian control.

Tension has built up in the past week, with rumours abounding of Ukrainian troops being deployed in the region.

Mr. Kravchuk discussed Crimea's future on the telephone Thursday with Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Ukraine has not accused Russia of meddling in Crimean affairs but says certain forces in Moscow are encouraging Russian nationalists.

In Moscow nationalist deputy Sergei Baburin told parliament he feared Ukrainian authorities might attempt a "state coup" in Crimea. He wanted parliamentary committees to work out ways to guarantee the safety of the Crimean population.

## Yeltsin warns Kravchuk

Mr. Yeltsin said Friday he warned Mr. Kravchuk to refrain from using force against the secessionist Republic of Crimea, Interfax reported.

"There cannot be in any instance any forceful actions undertaken against the Crimea," Mr. Yeltsin said to Kravchuk, adding: "Crimea is a sovereign republic within Ukraine and has the right to its own political stand and the right to make its own decisions."

The Russian leader said Mr. Kravchuk reassured him during the telephone conversation held Thursday by saying: "That's the way it will be."

Yeltsin stressed that Russia as well as central authorities in Kiev should not meddle in Crimean affairs, saying that "neither we, nor Ukraine" have the right to intervene. Russian Defence Minister General Pavel Grachev warned Friday of impending violence in Crimea failing talks to restore calm, Interfax reported.

## S. Africa's all-race Senate sworn in

CAPE TOWN (R) — South Africa's first all-race Senate was sworn in Friday, completing the country's transition to democracy in the Cape Town parliament that saw the rise and fall of apartheid.

In a gesture of reconciliation, President Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) gave the largely ceremonial post of Senate President to white former Justice and Prisons Minister Kobie Coetsee.

The ANC, which won a sweeping victory in last month's historic elections, named 82-year-old Communist Party veteran Govan Mbeki as deputy to Mr. Coetsee, his former jailer.

"The signal we are sending to all the people of South Africa is that there should be reconciliation amongst all the people," Mr. Mbeki told Reuters.

Mr. Coetsee, a member of the country's last white minority National Party (NP) government defeated in the April elections, initiated secret government negotiations with the ANC's jailed leaders almost 10 years ago.

Mr. Mbeki said they met face-to-face for the first time Friday.

Mr. Mbeki, who was jailed with Mr. Mandela on Robben Island in 1964 for opposing apartheid and spent almost 25 years in prison, said he would work comfortably with Mr. Coetsee despite their history.

"I don't think that is going to

be a handicap. That period is behind us and we are looking forward now," he said.

The ANC has 60 of the 90 Senate seats. The NP holds 17 with the rest divided amongst the white right-wing Freedom Front, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and the small liberal mainly-white Democratic Party.

Each of the nine post-apartheid provinces nominated 10 senators in proportion to the vote in provincial elections run at the same time as the national poll from April 26 to 29.

The Senate will sit together with the National Assembly as a constitution-writing body and has special powers to block legislation or constitutional proposals that could undermine the authority of provincial governments.

Mr. Coetsee told Reuters after his unanimous election that the Senate would play an important role in drafting a permanent post-apartheid constitution.

"The interests of the provinces will be heavily guarded in the Senate when it comes to legislation of any kind."

"We will have to guard and protect the central (government) interests as well as the provincial interests," he said.

The senators, including former political prisoners, victims of anti-apartheid detention and torture and some former members of the previous white minority government, took their seats in the 110-year-old

chamber of the old Cape Colonial Parliament once dominated by Cecil John Rhodes.

Veteran anti-apartheid activist Christmas Tinto shared a bench with Mr. Mbeki, and former NP cabinet minister Kraai Van Niekerk, who failed to win reelection, sat beside Mr. Coetsee.

Mr. Van Niekerk was nominated to the Senate to make him eligible to serve as agriculture minister in Mr. Mandela's 27-member national unity cabinet, which includes six NP members and three Inkatha members nominated by federalist Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelez.

One woman wore traditional Xhosa dress with beads in her hair, but most senators favoured the traditional dark suits worn by members of the former all-white Senate.

Members were sworn in by Chief Justice Michael Corbett, who last week inaugurated the 400-member legislative assembly and installed Mr. Mandela as the country's first black president.

Mr. Mandela is scheduled to address a joint sitting of the assembly and the Senate for the first time Tuesday, after a ceremonial opening of parliament including a 21-gun salute, a military parade and an air force fly-past.

His cabinet is scheduled to hold its first working session Monday in Tuynhuys, home of white governors, prime ministers and presidents for more than 300 years.

## Party is ending for Hosokawa on allies

TOKYO (R) — The reformist party of former Premier Morihiro Hosokawa, which brought about a sea change in Japan's politics last year, is disintegrating under the weight of power plays and the scandal that forced its founder to step down.

On Friday, four lawmakers quit the Japan News Party (JNP) amid calls for Mr. Hosokawa to resign as party leader. Last month, three other legislators left the party.

There is more dissent under the surface, party sources said. "We must never compromise our ideals for the sake of sheer political reality," the leader of the four defectors, Satoshi Arai, told a news conference Friday.

"We hold that mutual trust among parties is the most important element in parliamentary politics, especially in a coalition," he said. "We do not see that element in the current Japan New Party."

Mr. Hosokawa, the populist anti-graft campaigner, resigned as prime minister in April over a personal-loan scandal, similar to ones that had toppled governments of the long-entrenched Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which he ousted.

Mr. Hosokawa still faces de-

mands to appear in parliament and testify under oath about the affair.

The JNP has suffered duly. In one recent media survey, the party managed a mere five per cent support rating against about 12 per cent it mustered before Mr. Hosokawa resigned.

The JNP now has 33 lawmakers in the decisive lower house. The party could soon lose more defectors, and it would be lucky if it could return more than 10 in the next general election, party sources said.

Early general elections could come any time because the opposition has sworn to submit a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata's minority government once parliament had passed the national budget, expected in mid-July.

The four JNP defectors said they would form a small party called "Democratic Wind" and try to create a loose alliance with the Socialists and New Party Sakigake, two parties that bolted the Hosokawa-Hata coalition.

The defectors said they were disgusted with Mr. Hosokawa's policy to cement an alliance with Ichiro Ozawa, the controversial strategist in Mr.

Hata's coalition.

When the Socialists walked out of the coalition, Chairman Tomiichi Murayama spoke of the lack of trust in the grouping, pointing fingers at Mr. Ozawa's forceful and secretive manner.

Mr. Arai's talk about trust was taken a step further by his fellow defector Yuichi Takami. "We were elected because the people wanted clean politics, not the sort of politics driven by promises of cash and posts. Voters wanted us to stamp out influence-peddling," Mr. Takami told the news conference. "Talking with Mr. Ozawa, we saw no hope."

With the latest defections from the JNP, the structure of Japan's parliament was showing signs of major confusion, a three way split between the minority coalition, the main opposition LDP and a non-committed Socialist-led group none of which could claim a majority.

The biggest party, the LDP, now holds 200 seats in the 511-member lower house, but it is split into rival camps.

The Socialists, with 74 lawmakers, was likewise in danger of schism between pro-coalition rightwingers and the stubborn hard-left.

## COLUMN

## Parents of bullying victim win lawsuit

TOKYO (R) — In a landmark ruling on school bullying, a Tokyo court decided Friday that city authorities were responsible for the suicide of a student who had been harassed and ridiculed in a mock funeral at school. The ruling is the first to hold school and local authorities responsible for failing to deal with physical and mental school bullying — a serious problem rooted in intense competition among Japanese youths to get ahead. The Tokyo High Court ordered the City of Tokyo and Nakano Ward, which runs the school in question, to pay 11.5 million yen (\$110,000) to the parents of Hirofumi Shikagawa, who killed himself out of despair in 1986 at the age of 15. "I'm satisfied with today's ruling," a tearful Midori Shikagawa, the victim's mother, told a news conference. "Hirofumi has been waiting for this day for eight years and now he can finally rest in peace." The victim, a student at Fujimi Junior High School in Nakano, endured months of bullying by his co-students even after his parents had appealed to teachers for help. The climax came in November 1985, when a teacher allowed a classroom to conduct a mock funeral for Hirofumi, including a procession. The victim was presented with a card, signed by most of the class, that said "sayonara, Hirofumi." By February, Hirofumi decided he could take no more. He wrote a suicide note saying "this life is hell and I can't go on" and killed himself. His parents filed the lawsuit the following June, demanding 60 million yen (\$577,000) in compensation from city authorities as well as from the parents of two students who were regarded as the main bullies targeting Hirofumi. In March 1991, the Tokyo district court ordered Tokyo City to pay the parents four million yen (\$38,500) but stopped short of holding the school responsible. His parents filed an appeal that led to Friday's ruling.

## China blocks film-maker from going to Cannes

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese movie-maker Yin Li confirmed Friday he had been blocked from travelling to the Cannes Film Festival by the Chinese authorities, in a protest at the screening of *To Live*, a film by a fellow director that had not received Beijing's official approval. Yin, speaking by telephone, said he had been advised of the decision Thursday, three days ahead of the screening of his own film, *The History of Xinghua*, in the French Mediterranean resort. "The producers and the two leading actors of my film were also informed that their exit visas from China had been refused," he said. Yin, 36, said he felt victimised by a decision that had affected another filmmaker, Zhang Yimou, who made *To Live*. "He's the one who's sick and I'm the one getting the treatment," he said. The bar on Yin, which was initially reported in Cannes Thursday, came after Zhang announced that he would not attend the Cannes premiere of *To Live*. "Because my film... has still not received its censor's visa in China, I am unable to come to the Cannes festival. I regret this very much," a statement released by Zhang in Cannes said.

## None claim gold bars found in rubbish pile

TOKYO (R) — Gold bars worth about \$100,000 are gathering dust in a Japanese lost-and-found office while police wait for the owner to turn up and claim them, a police spokesman said Wednesday. A passerby found a metal case at a rubbish collection point beneath an overhead railway track in a busy part of Tokyo on Feb. 2. Inside were eight gold bars, together worth about 10 million yen (\$96,000), and five commemorative gold coins. Three months later, nobody has come forward either to claim the bullion or to report losing or being robbed of the gold. "The mystery just deepens. It's quite incomprehensible," the police spokesman said. Japanese law says that if nobody claims a piece of lost property within six months and 14 days of its being handed to police, then ownership passes to the finder.

مكتبة جامعة القاهرة